MARCH 2010
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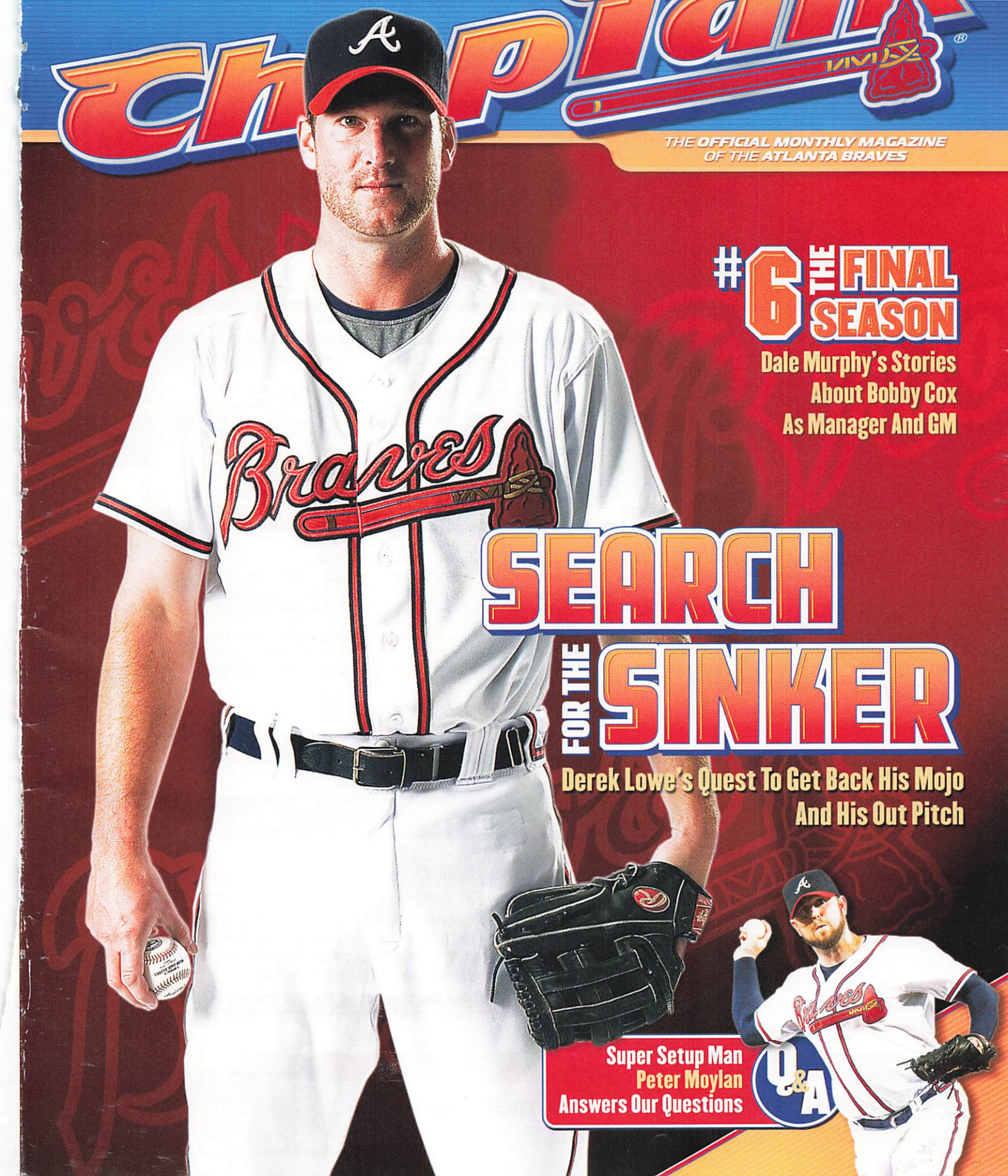
THE MAN BEHIND THE VOICE

A Visit With Radio Broadcaster Jim Powell

ChopTalk

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE ATLANTA BRAVES



#6 THE FINAL SEASON

Dale Murphy's Stories About Bobby Cox As Manager And GM

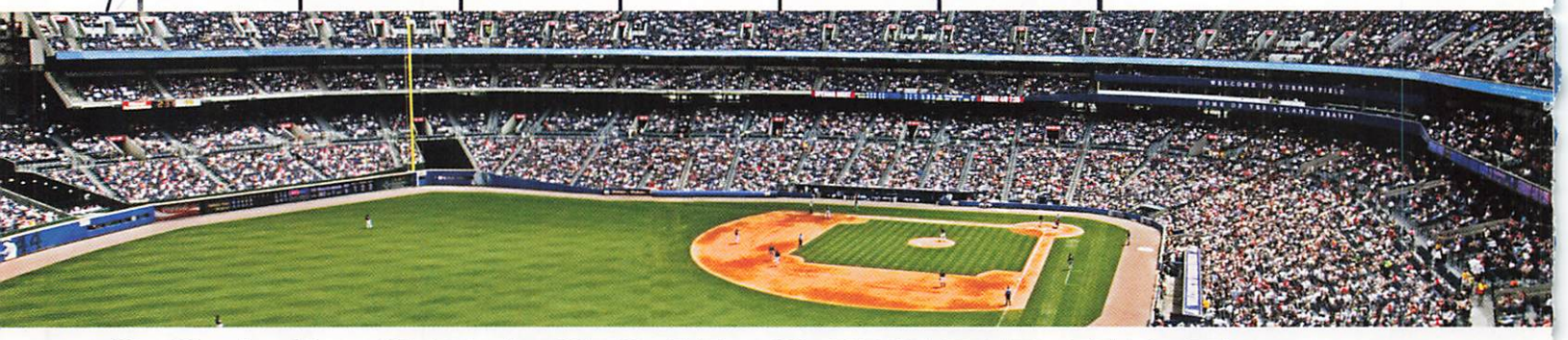
SEARCH FOR THE SINKER

Derek Lowe's Quest To Get Back His Mojo And His Out Pitch

Super Setup Man Peter Moylan Answers Our Questions

Q&A

THE MAGIC OF TURNER FIELD



2010 SEASON SCHEDULE

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2 CWS EXH 7:00	3 CWS EXH 1:00
4	5 CHI 4:00	6	7 CHI 7:00	8 CHI 7:00	9 SF 4:30	10 SF TBD
11 SF 4:00	12 SD 6:30	13	14 SD 10:00	15 SD 6:30	16 COL 7:30	17 COL 7:00
18 COL 1:30	19	20 PHI 7:00	21 PHI 7:00	22 PHI 7:00	23 NYM 7:00	24 NYM 1:00
25 NYM 8:00	26 STL 8:00	27 STL 8:00	28 STL 8:00	29 STL 1:30	30 HOU 7:30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 HOU 3:00
2 HOU 1:30	3	4 WAS 7:00	5 WAS 7:00	6 WAS 7:00	7 PHI 7:00	8 PHI 3:00
9 PHI 1:30	10 MIL 8:00	11 MIL 8:00	12 MIL 1:00	13	14 ARI 7:30	15 ARI 7:00
16 ARI 1:30	17 NYM 7:00	18 NYM 7:00	19 CIN 7:00	20 CIN 1:00	21 PIT 7:00	22 PIT 7:00
23 PIT 1:30	24	25 FLA 7:00	26 FLA 7:00	27 FLA 7:00	28 PIT 7:30	29 PIT 7:00
30 PIT 1:30	31 PHI 1:00					

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 PHI 7:00	2 PHI 1:00	3 LAD 10:00	4 LAD 10:00	5 LAD 10:00
6 LAD TBD	7 ARI 9:30	8 ARI 9:30	9 ARI 9:30	10 ARI 3:30	11 MIN 8:00	12 MIN 7:00
13 MIN 2:00	14	15 TB 7:00	16 TB 7:00	17 TB 7:00	18 KC 7:30	19 KC 7:00
20 KC 1:30	21	22 CWS 8:00	23 CWS 8:00	24 CWS 2:00	25 DET 7:30	26 DET 7:00
27 DET 1:30	28 WAS 7:00	29 WAS 7:00	30 WAS 7:00			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2 FLA 7:30	3 FLA 4:00
4 FLA 1:30	5 PHI 7:00	6 PHI 7:00	7 PHI 7:00	8	9 NYM 7:00	10 NYM 4:00
11 NYM 1:00	12 13 14 ALL-STAR GAME ANAHEIM			15 MIL 7:00	16 MIL 7:30	17 MIL 7:00
18 MIL 1:30	19	20 SD 7:00	21 SD 7:00	22 SD 1:00	23 FLA 7:00	24 FLA 7:00
25 FLA 1:00	26	27 WAS 7:00	28 WAS 7:00	29 WAS 12:30	30 CIN 7:00	31 CIN 7:00

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 CIN 1:00	2 NYM 7:00	3 NYM 7:00	4 NYM 7:00	5 SF 7:00	6 SF 7:30	7 SF 4:00
8 SF 1:30	9 HOU 8:00	10 HOU 8:00	11 HOU 2:00	12	13 LAD 7:30	14 LAD 7:00
15 LAD 1:30	16 LAD 7:00	17 WAS 7:00	18 WAS 7:00	19 WAS 1:00	20 CHI 2:00	21 CHI 4:00
22 CHI 2:00	23 COL 8:30	24 COL 8:30	25 COL 3:00	26	27 FLA 7:30	28 FLA 4:00
29 FLA 1:30	30 NYM 7:00	31 NYM 7:00				

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 NYM 7:00	2 NYM 7:00	3 FLA 7:00	4 FLA 7:00
5 FLA 1:00	6 PIT 1:30	7 PIT 7:00	8 PIT 7:00	9 STL 7:00	10 STL 7:30	11 STL 4:00
12 STL 1:30	13 WAS 7:00	14 WAS 7:00	15 WAS 12:00	16	17 NYM 7:00	18 NYM 4:00
19 NYM 1:00	20 PHI 7:00	21 PHI 7:00	22 PHI 7:00	23	24 WAS 7:00	25 WAS 1:00
26 WAS 1:30	27 FLA 7:00	28 FLA 7:00	29 FLA 7:00	30	1 PHI 7:30	2 PHI 7:00
3 PHI 1:30						

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Braves

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ATLANTA BRAVES

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Peter Moylan:
Pouya Dianat/Atlanta Braves
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BATTING ORDER

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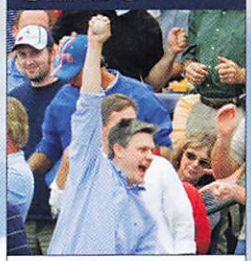
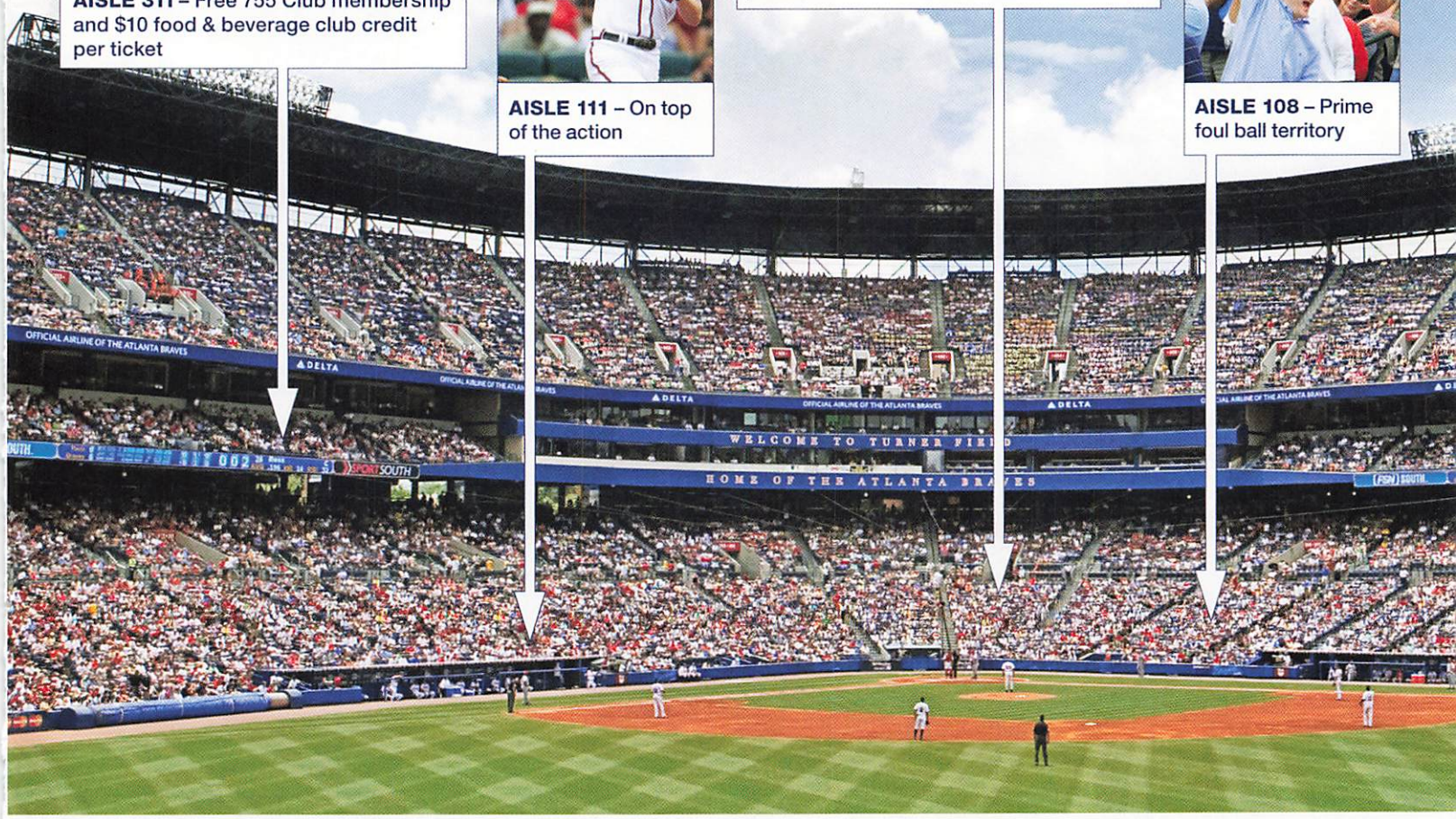


AISLE 108 – Prime foul ball territory



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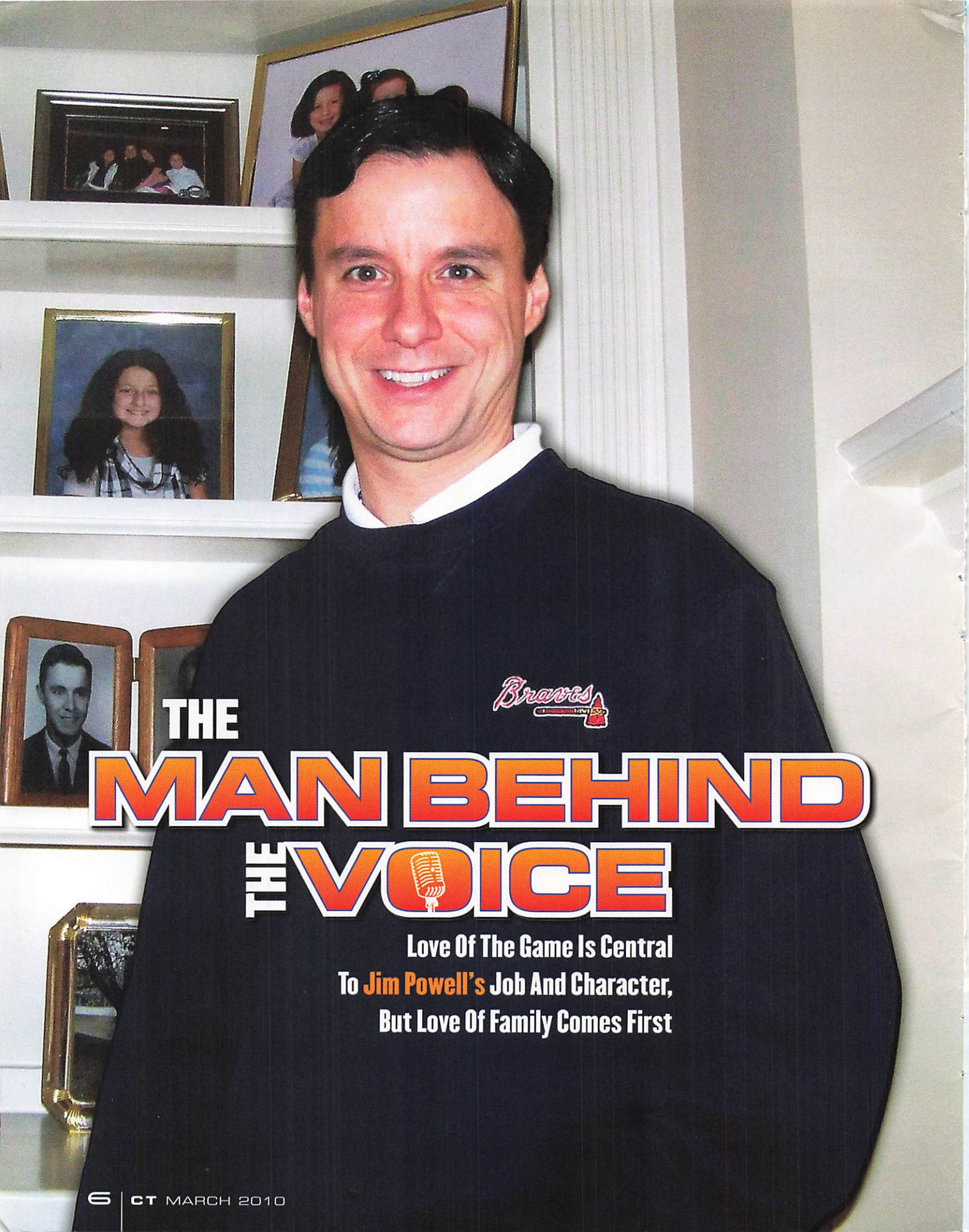


THE MAN BEHIND THE VOICE

Love Of The Game Is Central To Jim Powell's Job And Character, But Love Of Family Comes First

The Powell girls, in order of descending age, (L-R) Allie, Sabrina and Julia, with three of the cats in the family menagerie that Jim's wife, Emmy, had to drive from Milwaukee to Atlanta.

BY BRIAN A. LEE

EARLY LAST YEAR, Jim Powell returned to his hometown to do what he once dreamed about as a sports-loving kid - become the radio voice of the Atlanta Braves. The baseball announcer and his family have traded the rolling hills and cattle farms west of Milwaukee for their new home in the rolling hills and horse farms north of Atlanta.

Powell, wife Emmy and their three girls — 13-year-old Allie, 12-year-old Sabrina and 9-year-old Julia — are the picture of warmth and energy on a cold winter day. Whether it's a daughter returning from a victorious basketball game, one filling the air with piano melodies, or another playing with the family's five cats and two dogs, their house is full of activity.

One might think the 45-year-old Powell leads a charmed existence after being offered his dream job and going from the side of Radio Hall of Fame partner Bob Uecker in the Brewers' booth to the Braves' radio booth next to National Baseball Hall of Famer Don Sutton.

Ask Powell, though, and he's just as likely to quote a favorite saying from the famous baseball pioneer Branch Rickey: Luck is the residue of design. Hard work and preparation have been Powell's sturdy sails, allowing the winds of good fortune to take effect. Still, in a Major League Baseball broadcaster's life there's no escaping the rigors of the job and the many long hours separated from family.

"It's literally the greatest job in the world — you couldn't find a job that I would trade for — but the travel and being away from the family during the summer is really difficult on me," said Powell, who will call 162 games on Rock 100.5 and 680 The Fan, flagship stations of the Braves' radio network.

"When I leave, they still have each other, and they've got a lot of normalcy. But I'm just in a hotel room or on a plane with 50 guys. In April, May and September, when my daughters are still in school, I may have a 10-game homestand, but unless it's a weekend day, I see them for 30 seconds a day. I love baseball, but there's nothing I love more than my family."

Powell's wife, Emmy, said, "It really is like having two different lives, where in season it's almost like being a single parent. In the off-season, it's totally different. I literally go from just about never seeing Jim to seeing him every day for five months. The great thing about it is that the girls do, also.

"As much as we might have things scheduled, the off-season becomes a time when you really pick your spots of what you're going to do with your family, because we know that during the other seven months, it's going to be very sporadic. We do birthdays when we can. Allie's birthday and our anniversary are always during spring training."

The major transition that was 2009 for the Powells added an extra element of distance to their usual family sacrifices and time restraints. Their baseball schedule was anything but routine.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PHOTOS BRIAN A. LEE

Powell's wife and daughters didn't move to Atlanta from Milwaukee until July, and that was just one of the real-life challenges facing Emmy when her husband left the cold Midwest for spring training in sunny Florida.

Powell kidded his wife, "Okay, I've got the job. It's the end of January. One month later, it's, 'See ya' later [and off to spring training]. Don't forget to pack our house, move everything to Atlanta, sell the house, take care of the kids through the school year, move during the summer while I'm on the roadtrips, and then I'll see you in the fall.'"

And what about the daunting task of driving a more than starting-rotation-sized number of pets (four cats and two dogs) 13 hours from Milwaukee to Atlanta? Emmy stared it down like Tommy Hanson did the Yankees last summer.

"That trip could not have gone any better. I was extremely surprised that it wasn't just a complete nightmare," she said. "The girls flew, and I drove with a friend of mine with the animals. It's challenging when you've been in one place for 13 years, and I've never moved with children."

While taxing on some, the move energized other family members. Powell lived with Emmy's parents in the Atlanta suburb of Suwanee until his wife and daughters moved to Georgia in the summer. The Braves' radio announcer might've mistaken his in-laws for 20-something fans, given their energy and enthusiasm after games.

"That would probably be the biggest surprise of the season," Powell said. "There they are in their upper 70s, and it'd be 12 o'clock at night after we'd played some 13-inning heartbreaking game, and I'd walk in and they'd be sitting at the kitchen table waiting to comment on and question everything that happened. They live and die with the Braves, which is great."

Professionally, the homegrown, veteran announcer wasn't wowed by too many situations during his first year with the Braves, but Powell's special moments had to do mostly with the quality people he works and associates with.

"I was pleasantly surprised and pleased with how easily Don [Sutton] and I were able to form chemistry and work together and really enjoy baseball," said the 1998 Wisconsin Sportscaster of the Year. "He and I are different in many ways, including generational, but we love baseball and we love families. With that, we built the fabric of our relationship.

"And I was very pleased and humbled by how nice people like Bobby Cox and John Schuerholz were. They were my heroes, they were my guys that turned around my team that was so bad for so many years. So, it's still very strange to me when Schuerholz walks up and says, 'Hey, it's the Voice of the Braves!' And Bobby Cox from Day 1 down there at spring training treated me like I was his grandson. All the stuff you hear about why players want to run through walls for him, you can definitely see it."

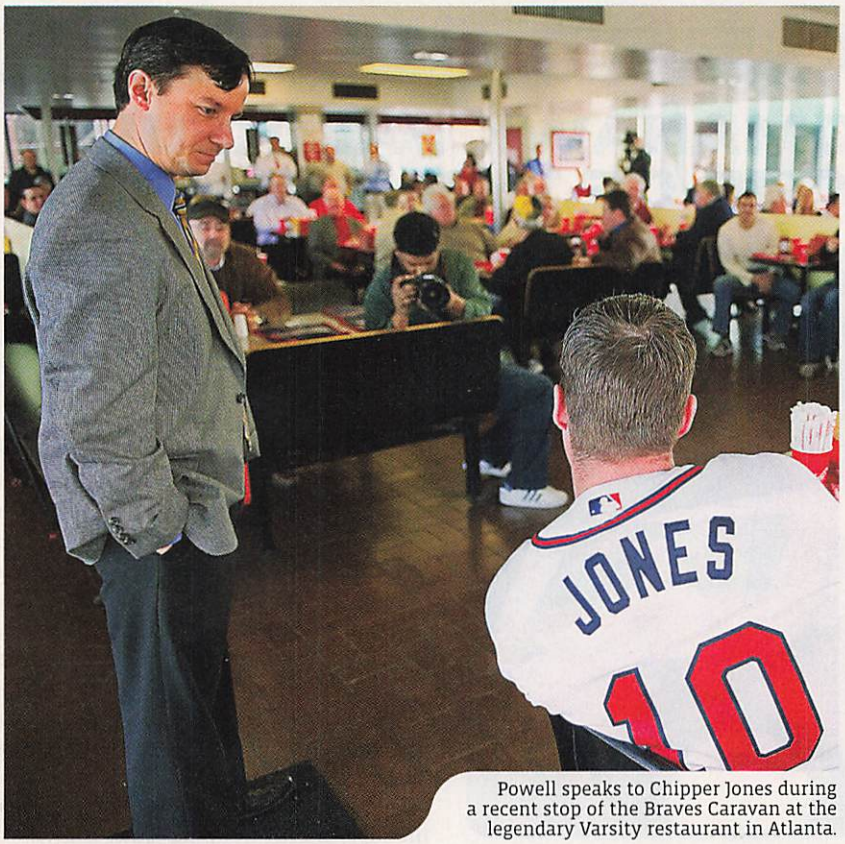
The ball doesn't always bounce one's way during the long, winding road that is a sports broadcasting career. After several years in the 1990s covering multiple University of South Carolina sports teams for the school's flagship radio station, Powell and his wife thought that he was going to get the "Voice of the Gamecocks" job in Columbia. However, when South Carolina's legendary broadcaster Bob Fulton retired, an outside announcer was brought in to fill the void.

"That was disappointing because I had spent a lot of time there, and I really loved college athletics," said Powell, who also was working minor league baseball in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as well as doing some Minnesota Twins games in 1993-94. "But as Emmy is always telling me, things happen for a reason. Shortly thereafter, I got the Brewers job in Milwaukee sitting next to Bob Uecker. So it ended up working out pretty well."

Added Emmy, "It seemed like it was really a fate kind of thing, because it happened so quickly. Just out of the blue came [that

SPECIAL

Jim and Emmy Powell, attending a University of Georgia football game, are both products of the school's broadcast journalism program where they met.



ATLANTA BRAVES

Powell speaks to Chipper Jones during a recent stop of the Braves Caravan at the legendary Varsity restaurant in Atlanta.

Brewers job]."

Another stroke of luck came not too long after that. Powell was at Brewers' spring training in March 1996 while his wife was expecting to have their first child at any moment back in Columbia. The soon-to-be father made it home just in time.

"He literally flew on an overnight flight, thinking that we were just going to induce," said Emmy. "Had he not taken that flight, he wouldn't have made it for Allie's birth, because I actually went into labor anyway, like literally hours after he landed."

Before careers and children were even a factor, a big move proved quite fortuitous for the Powells. Emmy started college at Florida State University, but due to her own growing interest in broadcasting, transferred back to her home state and the University of Georgia after two years. That put the two in the same college town, and when Emmy started working at the UGA radio station in her senior year, Jim already was calling Bulldogs baseball games. Thus, they found themselves in the same social circles, as well. Broadcasting and the Braves proved to be just the right commonalities to spark a romance.

"I remember us going to a sports bar and watching a Braves game, and the fact that I knew who Bob Horner was, I think, maybe kind of impressed him at the time," said Emmy, who later became the first female news director in the state of South Carolina during the couple's pre-parenthood, Columbia days. "I am a huge sports and football fan and I, of course, grew up being a Braves fan in Atlanta. So, there was just that connection. That's basically how we met."

All three of the Powells' daughters now play recreational basketball, and Jim coaches one of their teams. He and his wife enjoy facing off on the tennis court whenever possible, with Emmy claiming a doubles championship at the highest level of the T2Tennis league. Don't be fooled, though. Sports participation isn't just Powell's way to occupy free and/or family time.

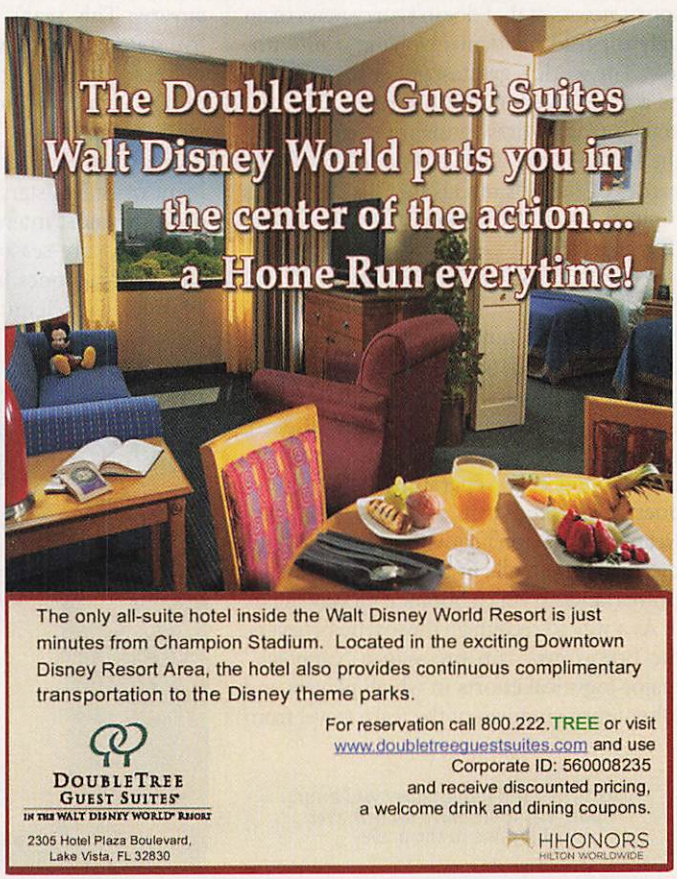
"I've known Jimmy since we were both about seven years old, and he's probably the most competitive person that I've ever met," said Bill Sanders, Powell's close friend and a veteran reporter for 12 years at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "He just hated to lose. I was probably three or four inches taller than he was, but he was quicker and was probably a little bit better of an athlete. We would play for hours and he'd always end up winning. On the basketball court, it'd be 100 to 97. In Wiffle ball, it'd be 14 to 13."

"I know this: I love competition, and I am fascinated with the sport of baseball," Powell said. "Major League Baseball is the perfect marriage of those two interests — the best players competing in the best sport."

When not trying to one-up each other in a game of basketball, Wiffle ball or football, youngsters Powell and Sanders often would sit and watch Braves games on TV with the volume turned down, adding their own call of the game as a cassette tape recorder rolled.

"We would go back and listen to the tapes later," Sanders said. "I'm sure I was horrible, but it apparently stuck for him."

Apparently!



PAINTING THE CORNERS

BY JAY BUSBEE

THE TRUE TOMAHAWK FAITHFUL ARE STILL PROUD OF THEIR HEROES

CARLOS RESTREPO

With cold drinks and candy as a backdrop, Chipper, accompanied by his son, Shea, signs a jersey for one of the many fans that drove for miles and braved cold weather to see him at a Marietta supermarket.

THESE DAYS, it's the rare sports page or sports newscast that doesn't carry news of an ugly off-field incident involving a pro athlete. The world's greatest golfer turns out to be a fraud mocking his marriage. Two basketball players draw guns on each other in the locker room. One of baseball's greatest heroes of the '90s reveals that his career was built on drugs. Yes, it's a pretty rough time to be a sports fan.

Unless, of course, you're part of Braves Nation.

Atlanta may not have won a championship – or even sniffed the playoffs – in quite a few years now, but that hasn't dimmed the passion of its fans. Indeed, Atlanta's lack of post-season success has clarified the fan base, separating the bandwagoners from the true believers. The fair-weather types don't show up until the summertime, if at all, but for the hardcores, Braves fandom isn't a hobby, it's a way of life.

As a way to recognize those true believers, the Braves now run pre-season "caravans," major logistical efforts in which players and other representatives of the team travel from Turner Field to your town – or close to it, anyway. This year's Braves Caravan visited five states over two weeks, bringing current players, retired legends and promising minor leaguers to town for up-close visits with the fans.

Every caravan stop featured an assortment of Braves stars, but the one on Feb. 1 drew the most interest for a simple reason: The only pre-season appearance of one Larry Wayne Jones Jr. Fans from as far away as Knoxville, Tenn., and Asheville, N.C., came to spend some time with Chipper, and I decided to join the mix.

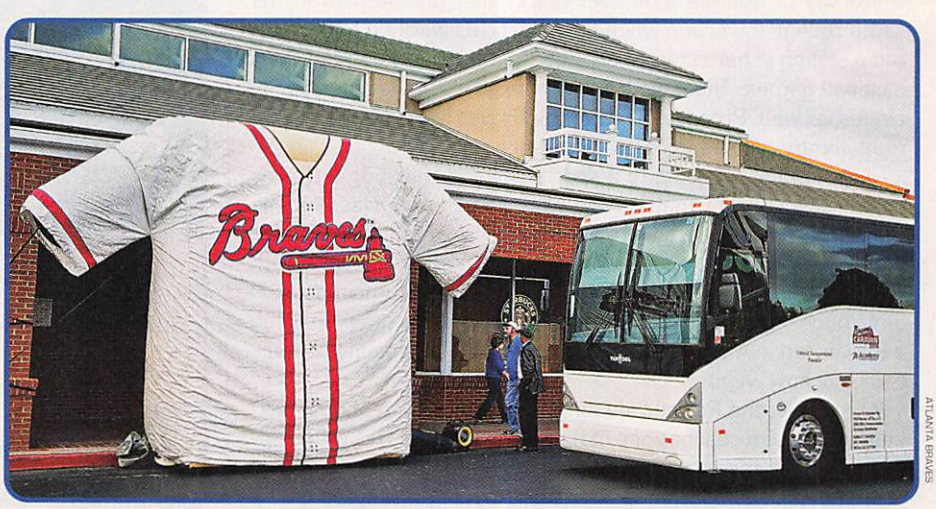
Caravan locations ranged from sports outlets to wing restaurants to grocery stores. It wasn't tough to pick out the location of the Marietta Caravan. The 15-foot-tall inflatable Braves jersey in front of Publix was a bit of a tipoff. The Braves were scheduled to begin signing autographs at 4:30 in the afternoon, but according to Publix managers, fans began lining up at 10 in the morning. As I'd soon see, this level of devotion was admirable, but by no means unusual.

As signing time drew near, I approached the supermarket from the "quiet" side, and I have to confess a mild twinge of disappointment at what I thought was the turnout. I could only see a couple dozen fans lined up at the door. At this rate, Chipper could kick back and have a sandwich with every fan in attendance.

And then I got a look at the line outside. Oh, boy!

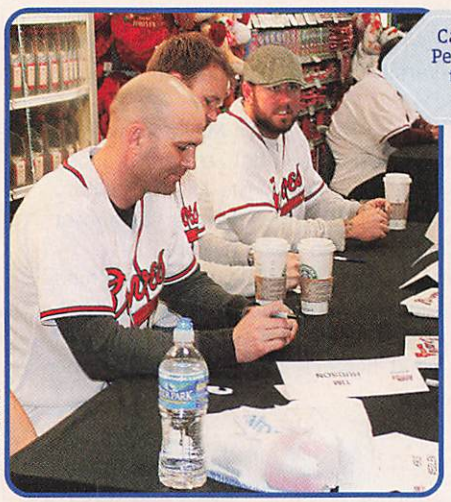
The line stretched out the store and down the sidewalk for several hundred feet. I began walking along the line, and when I spotted what I thought was the end, whistled in a bit of disbelief.

A kid heard me and laughed: "Oh, you've



ATLANTA BRAVES

This 15-foot inflatable jersey was a sure tipoff that there were some Braves ballplayers in the house.



ATLANTA BRAVES

Caravan troopers (L-R) Tim Hudson, David Ross and Peter Moylan meet and greet some of the many fans that began lining up at 10 a.m. for a signing that didn't start until 4:30 p.m.

got a long way to go," he said.

Was he ever right. The line made a hard right turn along the sidewalk and stretched all the way to the far end of the shopping center, all the way into a Home Depot. I later Google-mapped it and estimated the line at close to a thousand feet long, more than three football fields.

The line dwellers ran the gamut from infants to grandparents, almost all wearing Braves jerseys or hats. They clutched balls and bats, pennants and posters, as they stood in front of the dry cleaners, the yogurt shop, the CD store, and the other dozen or so stores in the shopping center. But it was the kids who gave the line its character. While the grownups huddled together in their jackets against the 40-degree cold, the kids bounced up and down the line, balancing on the edge of the sidewalk, falling into the shrubbery, and – in more than one case – tossing around already-autographed balls, much to the horror of their parents.

One of the few quiet youngsters was Branson Simmons, a six-year-old from Cumming, Ga., sporting a Gwinnett Braves cap. While his favorite player, Matt Diaz, wasn't in attendance this day, he was visibly nervous about meeting several other of his heroes. What was he planning to say to them?

"Um… 'Hi,'" he said, toeing at the ground.

His father, Jason, laughed and tried to encourage Branson to offer some more insight on why he likes the Braves. But Branson wasn't biting, so Jason added his own take. "They're family-oriented," he said. "They don't cause a big 'scene' when they go out. They're the hometown team, and you can be proud of them."

Two other boys weren't quite as quiet as Branson, probably because they were further up the line, and thus that much closer to meeting Chipper et al. The Hales brothers, Jacob (12) and Nathan (8), bounced from foot to foot within just a few feet of the doors to Publix. Jacob's favorite player is Yunel Escobar, and Jacob's enough of a Braves fan that he had red and blue rubber bands wrapped around his braces the morning of the caravan. Nathan, meanwhile, couldn't believe his luck, since Chipper is his favorite player, but Chipper rarely does public signings.

"The Braves are such a fan-friendly team," said the boys' father, Scott. "They're not a cocky team. The moral issues, the ethical issues that you see with a lot of other teams – they're not there on this team."

But it wasn't just families that made the trek and waited in the chill. John Houston drove from Knoxville sporting a bright red Brian McCann jersey. For him, McCann is the latest in a long line of Braves who don't fit the mold of the typical spoiled rich jock.

"He's selfless, all about the team," Houston said. "He seems like a down-to-earth guy, a guy who could be – you can't say this about a lot of guys anymore – a role model."

Inside the supermarket, nearly a dozen Braves of the past, present and future sat at a long table well-stocked with Sharpie markers and Braves stickers. Strangely enough, the Braves had their backs to a dairy cooler, but then most grocery stores aren't really set up for autograph sessions. Everyone at the table had a small placard bearing his name, except for Chipper, who doesn't really need one.

And Chipper, who's dealt with this kind of acclaim his entire adult life, still paid tribute to the fans that waited hours to meet him.

"It's always flattering to see this kind of turnout," he said as he signed autographs. "You can't ever take any of this for granted, because that's when they stop showing up."

From all over the grocery store, people peered at Chipper, stealing glances from behind registers and down aisles. But he understands that while he sacrifices a bit of privacy, it could be far worse.

"The scrutiny in Atlanta is nothing compared to what other guys in baseball have to deal with," he said. "This is a relaxed community, and the fan and media pressure isn't near what it would be in other markets. Guys that come here are thanking their lucky stars that they're playing in Atlanta."

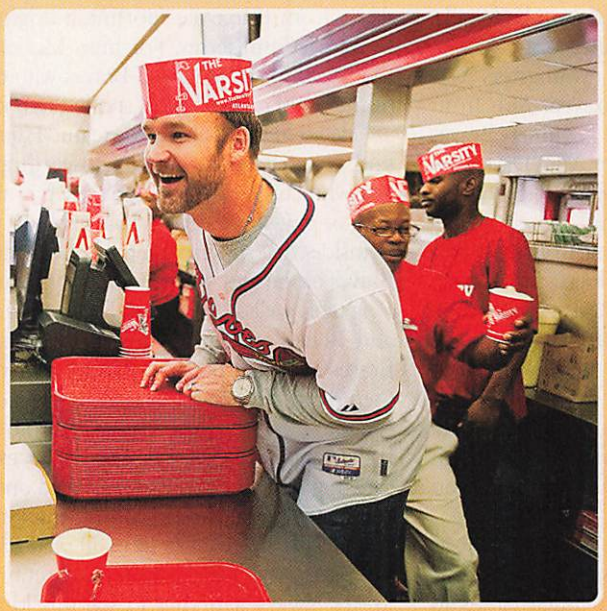
That gratitude doesn't go unnoticed by the fans, who left the store by the hundreds, bearing once-in-a-lifetime memories. For just a moment, the line between fan and player was gone, and the Braves could bond with their supporters in a way that they can't on game day.

"They're a blue-collar bunch of guys," Houston said of the players. "Regular people can relate to that. They make a lot of money, but it's still like they're your family."

JAY BLISBEE

Branson Simmons, a six-year-old from Cumming, Ga., came ready to collect autographs on his bat and wasn't deterred by the line that stretched more than the length of three football fields.

WHAT'LL YA HAVE?



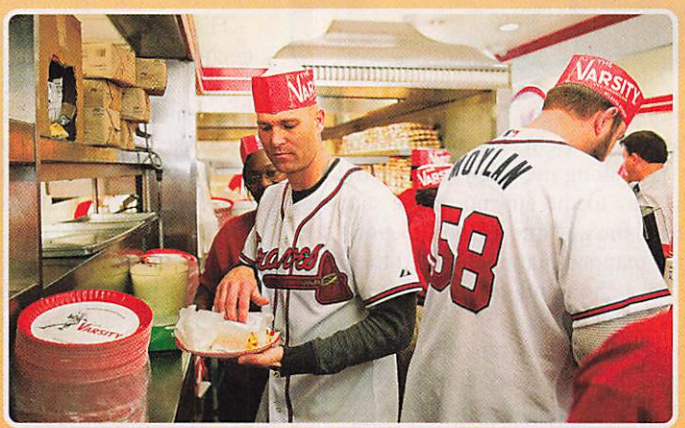
PHOTOS: ATLANTA BRAVES

David Ross (above) provides service with a smile for customers at The Varsity while Tim Hudson and Peter Moylan (photo at right) serve the dogs, fries and rings.

MAJOR LEAGUE BALLPLAYERS slinging dogs, fries and rings behind the counter at The Varsity? You had to see it (or the pictures) to believe it!

There were Tim Hudson, David Ross, Peter Moylan and Kris Medlen taking orders from customers and delivering the goods Feb. 1 during a stop on the Braves Caravan at the Atlanta culinary institution, none other than the world's largest drive-in restaurant located at the Downtown Connector and North Avenue.

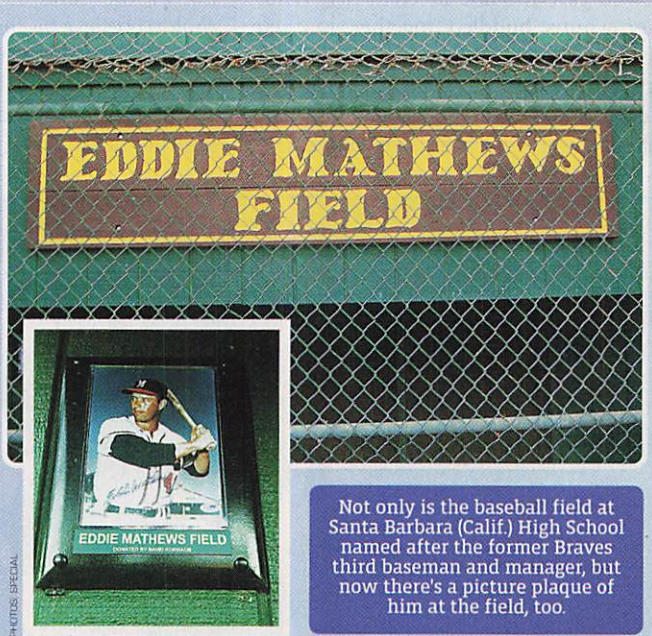
Those players, along with Chipper Jones, bench coach Chino Cadahia, former Braves Brian Jordan and Brad Clontz ad Frank Wren and John Schuerholz also took part in a question and answer panel for season ticket holders during the visit to The Varsity.



SCHOOL DAYS

THE LATE Eddie Mathews graduated from Santa Barbara (California) High School in 1949 and immediately signed with the then Boston Braves, beginning a legendary career that led to the Braves Hall of Fame and the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Though Mathews has been gone from the school for 60 years and has been deceased since 2001, the great third baseman is still remembered at Santa Barbara High where the baseball field is named after him and where a new plaque with his picture and autograph recently was installed behind home plate on the announcer's booth/concession stand. The plaque was a contribution by David Kornaus, a local resident who grew up idolizing Mathews and other players of the 1950s-60s era.

As a boy, Santa Barbara baseball coach Fred Warrecker met Mathews, who gave him a ball that he kept after hitting it for a home run against the Dodgers' Joe Black. He signed it to Warrecker, who still has it on display.



PHOTOS: SPECIAL

Not only is the baseball field at Santa Barbara (Calif.) High School named after the former Braves third baseman and manager, but now there's a picture plaque of him at the field, too.

FAMED!

BRAVES HALL OF FAME broadcaster Ernie Johnson and Braves 1995 World Series MVP Tom Glavine are receiving nice, new credits for their already distinguished resumes.

Johnson was one of seven members of the new class of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame inductees chosen from a field of 252 nominees. He was to be inducted in a Feb. 20 ceremony at the Macon City Auditorium.

Glavine is one of four members of the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame class of 2010. He will be honored along with the others at an induction ceremony on Saturday, June 12, at the Rialto Center for the Performing Arts at Georgia State University in downtown Atlanta. Tickets are available to the public for $20, $50 or $100. For ticket information or reservations, contact Bev Bennett at (770) 394-3359.

The induction announcement was made Feb. 9, at a party attended by Glavine, former Braves pitching coach Leo Mazzone, Braves Hall of Fame broadcaster Pete Van Wieren, Paula Caray, widow of Braves Hall of Fame broadcaster Skip Caray, and current Braves broadcaster Joe Simpson. Van Wieren and Caray were inducted into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

TOM GLAVINE WAY

THE STREET leading to Billerica (Massachusetts) High School is being renamed Tom Glavine Way in honor of its famed alumnus and 300-game winner. Glavine was surprised to learn that his long-time friends, Scott and Tish Crandall, proposed the road name change in his honor. "I didn't know anything about it," said Glavine, who attended Billerica High School from 1981-1984 and was a standout baseball and hockey player. The Crandalls petitioned the town's board of selectmen and the school committee at the fall 2009 town meeting and received no opposition. Ed Tierney, Billerica highway foreman, went to work making the street sign that will be installed and unveiled in April, according to John Curran, Billerica town manager.

WHAT IS THAT?

BATTING CAGE

NEARLY ALL the players have changed since the Braves moved to Turner Field in 1997, but one key piece of equipment remains from the start. The team's batting cage will soon begin its 14th season.

Batting cages protect people watching batting practice from getting hit, and they keep foul balls from reaching the stands and flying all around the ballpark. They require minimal maintenance and last a long time. Braves field director Ed Mangan believes the old batting cage from Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium still gets used in the club's minor league system.

"You can find cages in organizations that are 20 years old, easy," said Mangan.

Batting cages are usually about 14 feet wide and 12 feet tall. Some collapse or fold to fit into smaller openings. The Braves store their cage in the tunnel underneath the stadium, located by the entrance in right field. It has wheels and swivels that allow it to get moved in and out quickly. No assembly is required and it only takes a couple of minutes to set up.

The Braves' cage (below) was made by Burbank Sport Nets in Fernandina Beach, Fla., near Jacksonville. The company originally made nets for catching shrimp and fish, before getting into baseball. Eli Rowe, a sales manager for Burbank Sport Nets, said they have manufactured batting cages since 1980 and have worked with numerous major league clubs.

Since the Braves' cage has an aluminum frame, it won't rust or decay. The aluminum is covered with padding to help against the constant pounding of baseballs. The net that hangs in the cage may eventually need to be changed.

"The nets are manufactured now – they're very heavy nets, and they are dipped," said Mangan. "They are coated in a UV-resistant dip, which protects the net. If your cage is stored inside, it lasts a lot longer than if it is stored outside. When you get to 10 years or so, it might be time to replace the net, but the frame is aluminum, and there are no real issues with it."

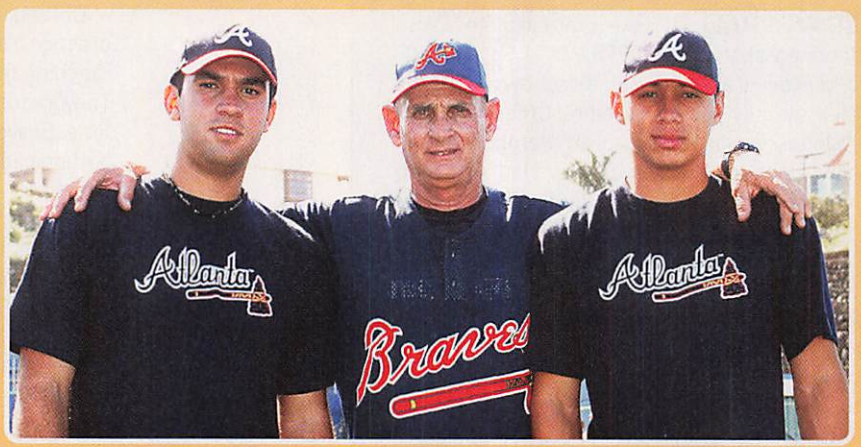
- STEVE FALL

EUROPEAN MARKET

THE BRAVES' new academy in Tenerife, Spain (CT, Sept. & Oct. '09) continued to pay dividends in early February when the club signed two Canary Islands native players, outfielder **Deion Galvan** and catcher **Roberto Machado**.

Johnny Almaraz, the Braves' director of international operations said at the end of the first season at the academy, created in collaboration with the Royal Spanish Federation of Baseball and Softball, that two contracts would be offered at the beginning of the year. The transactions were finalized by Braves scout **Nestor Perez Sr.**, founder of the academy. Galvan has been under Perez's instruction for nine years.

With these two additions, the number of players signed by the Braves through the academy in Tenerife totals four. Shortstop **Alejandro Sanchez** from Spain signed with the Braves in July, and outfielder **Ruben Rijkhof** from Holland signed earlier.



Nestor Perez Sr. (center), a Braves scout and founder of the first European academy of a major league team, proudly shows off new signees Roberto Machado (L) and Deion Galvan.

According to academy officials, the Braves program in Tenerife has awakened the interest of promising youth baseball players all over Europe, many of them just waiting for tryout dates in hopes of gaining a roster spot at the academy.

GRAPEFRUIT SEASON

The results are about to start coming in from spring training, but no matter how often it's said that exhibition records don't mean anything in relation to the regular season, fans find it difficult to believe.

Admittedly, there can be a correlation between how a team plays in exhibition games and how it plays when everything is on the line... But just as often, there is absolutely no correlation.

Take last season, for example. Of the six division winners, four had winning records in spring training. In fact, the World Champion Yankees led the Grapefruit League (teams that train in Florida) with a 24-10 record. The Angels, who won the American League West, led the Cactus League (teams that train in Arizona) - and all of baseball - with a 26-8 (.765) exhibition record. The Cardinals (19-12) and Twins (19-13) also had winning records.

However, the National League champion Phillies only had a 13-19 record in the Grapefruit League, and the Dodgers were just 15-22 in the Cactus League.

The Braves actually played well last spring, posting a 21-12 record, second in the Grapefruit League to the Yankees.

However, since regular players seldom play full games, pitchers' work is even more limited than in the regular season, and many games end with minor league lineups on the field for both teams, it only makes sense that a team's record in Florida or Arizona cannot be a true indicator of what will follow the next six months.

Nevertheless, it's still human nature to take notice of the wins and losses. Just don't put much stock in them. Before you get too caught up in this year's exhibition results, take a look at the following chart. What you'll

COMPARE THE SEASONS

YEAR	SPRING	REGULAR	YEAR	SPRING	REGULAR
1966	13-13	85-77	1988	8-21	54-106
1967	12-13	77-85	1989	16-12	63-97
1968	13-11	81-81	1990	7-7	65-97
1969	11-12	93-69	1991	15-12	94-68
1970	15-17	76-86	1992	10-19	98-64
1971	13-14	82-80	1993	17-11-2	104-58
1972	8-12	70-84	1994	20-9	68-46
1973	4-18-1	76-85	1995	3-8	90-54
1974	10-11-1	88-74	1996	16-10-1	96-66
1975	9-19	67-94	1997	10-18	101-61
1976	16-14	70-92	1998	13-17-1	106-56
1977	8-8-1	61-101	1999	17-13	103-59
1978	14-11	69-93	2000	14-17	95-67
1979	16-10	66-94	2001	12-13-3	88-74
1980	10-9	81-80	2002	15-14-2	101-59
1981	15-15	50-56	2003	17-12-2	101-61
1982	18-7	89-73	2004	14-17	96-66
1983	13-15	88-74	2005	12-15-1	90-72
1984	13-13	80-82	2006	11-18-3	79-83
1985	18-11	66-96	2007	18-12-2	84-78
1986	18-11	72-89	2008	15-15	72-90
1987	16-14	69-92	2009	21-12	86-76

find is that there really is no correlation between the Braves' spring training record and their regular season record since moving to Atlanta in 1966. Some years, there is an interesting similarity, but in many years, the records are very different.

The Braves were scheduled to open a 33-game exhibition season Mar. 2 at Port St. Lucie against the Mets. The home opener at newly re-named ESPN Wide World of Sports is the next day, Mar. 3, also against the Mets, at 1:05 p.m.

Atlanta has 16 games scheduled at 9,500-seat Champion Stadium, including Mar. 30 against the Yankees, Mar. 9 and 24 against the Phillies, and Mar. 3 and 10 against the Mets.

Prior to opening the regular season Monday, April 5 (4 p.m.), at Turner Field against the Cubs, Bobby Cox's club hosts the White Sox at Turner Field for exhibition games April 2 and 3.

See page 52-53 for the complete exhibition schedule and Grapefruit League ticket information.

STILL NO. 1

Right field prospect **Jason Heyward** ended last year as the overall Minor League Player of the Year, as determined by both USA Today Baseball Weekly and Baseball America. And apparently not much changed over the winter, because he's beginning this season as the top-ranked prospect in the minor leagues by both MLB.com and ESPN.com. Other Braves prospects in the MLB.com top 50 list were righthander **Julio Teheran**, who was ranked 34th. In the ESPN.com top 100, the Braves were also represented by Teheran (63rd), first baseman **Freddie Freeman** (67th) and righthander **Randall Delgado** (85th).

NO ARBITRATION

The Braves agreed to terms with reliever **Peter Moylan** on a one-year contract, thus avoiding salary arbitration. Moylan was the last arbitration-eligible player on the Braves' 40-man roster who was unsigned for 2010.

SHORT HOPS

- The Braves' early throwing program for pitchers was held at Turner Field Feb. 1-12 under the direction of pitching coach **Roger McDowell**.

FRANK WREN
GENERAL MANAGER

SPECIAL INSTRUCTORS CAN HELP IN THE SPRING

WE'LL BE LEAVING for spring training in a few days. The early throwing program at Turner Field has been going very well. There have been no problems, and everyone looks great. Tim Hudson, in particular, really looks outstanding.

We're going to have a few special instructors in camp. One will be Jimy Williams, who was in spring training with us last year and was a coach for Bobby (1990-1996). He and Bobby have such a special relationship, and he's willing to help us in the spring. Last spring he worked a lot with our pitchers on bunting, and it showed during the season, because our pitchers did a terrific job of bunting. Another thing he'll do is work with Troy Glaus on making the transition to first base.

Gene Garber will be there again and will work with Peter Moylan, like he did last year. Dale Murphy and Phil Niekro also will be there as instructors. We're still talking to a couple of others who might be there if their schedules work out.

This is a good time to talk about some of the guys who work with me, behind the scenes for the most part, but that play big roles in the organization.

(Assistant GM) Bruce Manno is such a valuable guy because he's spent so many years as a farm director and assistant GM that he knows the player personnel side so well. He has a great feel and insight into the players and the staff and has built so many great relationships. Bruce assists me in every area, and he's in charge of all arbitration negotiations. He and (director of baseball administration) John Coppolella are behind our arbitration negotiations, the zero-to-three (years of service) players, and minor league free agents.

> "LAST SPRING (JIMY WILLIAMS) WORKED A LOT WITH OUR PITCHERS ON BUNTING, AND IT SHOWED DURING THE SEASON."

One thing that makes Bruce so valuable is his experience, and there's no doubt in my mind he could be a general manager.

Coppolella is a very bright guy that has given us a different perspective on statistics and evaluations. He oversees the gathering of information in professional scouting and analyzes the other 29 clubs for trades and prospect evaluation. It's a lot of information, and he does a terrific job of managing it. He was with the Yankees for seven years before coming with us four years ago.

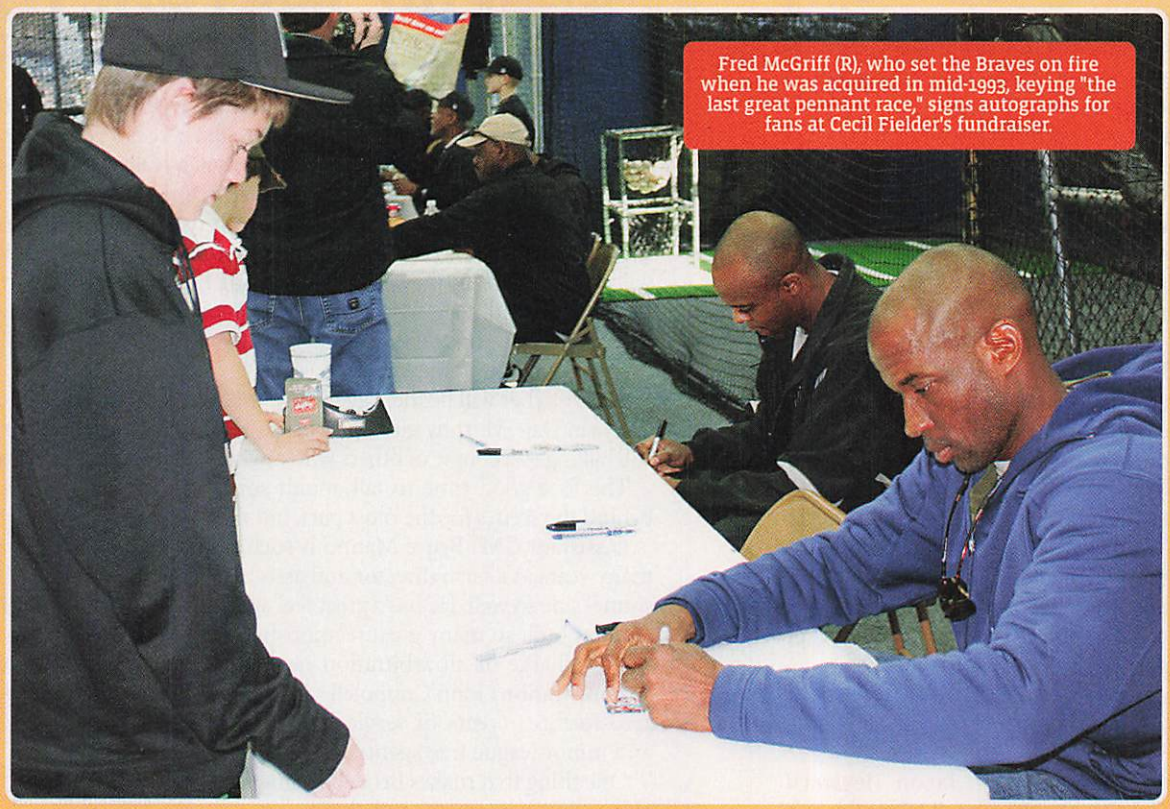
Special assistant Jim Fregosi is a long-time major league player and manager who covers all 30 major league clubs for us and is our top advisor on trades and player evaluations. He is invaluable with his experience and knowledge and his network of gathering information. It takes a really dedicated and organized guy to do that, and Jim is outstanding at it.

Dom Chiti covers the National League, and Chuck McMichael covers the American League. Dom also spends a lot of time in our minor league system. He has vast pitching knowledge and is very helpful in evaluating our young pitchers. And Chuck is very strong on international competition and helps out in the Caribbean and Far East, as well as covering the American League. Both of them are at a game every night during the 162-game season, and both spend time in our minor league system, too.

Dick Balderson, Tim Conroy, Guy Hansen and Jeff Wren are special assistants and major league scouts. They each have seven organizations to cover at three levels - major league, Triple A and Double A.

We basically get three looks at each major league player - by Fregosi, either the AL or NL guy, and the organizational coverage guys give us the third look. Players change, get hurt, go through slumps. If you see someone in a slump, you might not get a good read on him, so that's why it's good to have as many reads as possible, and then we double back on guys we have interest in and make sure we see those guys in September, as well.

FOUND: DOG



Fred McGriff (R), who set the Braves on fire when he was acquired in mid-1993, keying "the last great pennant race," signs autographs for fans at Cecil Fielder's fundraiser.

CARLOS RESTREPO

Fred "Crime Dog" McGriff (1B, 1993-97) was in Atlanta Mar. 31 to participate in **Cecil Fielder**'s fundraiser at his Knock House training facility in Marietta, Ga., to support boys travel teams. **Brian Jordan** (OF, 1999-2001, '05-06), **Otis Nixon** (OF, 1991-93, '99) and **Marquis Grissom** (OF, 1995-96) also participated.

THE ROMANS

The Eighth Annual Hot Stove Gathering in Rome, Ga., welcomed a huge turnout on Jan. 25. Former R-Brave pitchers **Tommy Hanson**, **Kris Medlen** and **Ryne Reynoso** hosted question-and-answer sessions and signed autographs along with Atlanta bench coach **Chino Cadahia** and third base coach **Brian Snitker**, Rome manager **Randy Ingle** and coaches **Bobby Moore** and **Jim Czajkowski**. All the proceeds from the event benefited Cancer Navigators in memory of long-time Braves coach **Jim Beauchamp**.

TEACHING KIDS

New Braves reliever **Scott Proctor**, a non-roster invitee to spring training who's expected to make a strong bid for a bullpen spot at least by May as he works his way back from surgery, hosted a youth baseball clinic Feb. 6 in Stuart, Fla. Proctor's foundation - M.E. Team, named after his daughter - provided a day of instruction, along with **Mark Rodgers**, vice president of Martin County North Little League, and **George Bailey**, coach at the Boys and Girls Club, for boys from the 10th Street Initiative youth baseball program. A righthander, Proctor has five years of big league experience with the Yankees and Dodgers (16-10, 4.42), including five games of post-season experience with the Yankees (1.50).

HOMECOMING

Outfield prospect **Jason Heyward** was part of the Braves Winter Caravan in early February. One of the stops was the outfielder's alma mater, Henry County High School, where Heyward addressed students and spoke with a former teacher, **Tammie Ruston**. Ruston teaches British literature, but she knew Heyward prior to having him in class, because her son, **Andrew "Willie" Wilmot**, also played on the school's baseball team. Wilmot was killed in a traffic accident while attending Walter State Community College, and Ruston told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Heyward has remained a frequent visitor in order to keep the baseball memory of Wilmot alive. Heyward was accompanied by **Tim Hudson**, **David Ross** and minor league pitcher **Todd Redmond**. The players spoke to an assembly of the senior class and then to the school baseball team.

ALPINE GOLF

The annual United Way Celebrity Golf Event to benefit United Way of White County, is scheduled April 12-13 in Helen, Ga., a replica of an Alpine village located in the North Georgia mountains. **Darrel Chaney** (INF, 1976-79) helps organize the event that will feature **Phil Niekro** (RHP, 1964-83, '87),

Brian Jordan (OF, 1999-2001, '05-06), **Dave Bristol** (Manager, 1976-77), **Al Pena** (RHP, 1991-92, '95) and long-time trainer **Dave Pursley**, as well as other celebrities and former athletes. Activities include the golf tournament, as well as wives/guests day, dinners, silent auction and a stage show at Unicoi Lodge. For Information, call **Carol Powell** at (706) 892-4779.

ON THE AIR

Fox Sports South and SportSouth will broadcast 105 Braves games this season, including Opening Day (April 5) against the Cubs. SportSouth will carry 79 of the games, and Fox Sports South the remaining 26. Peachtree TV will carry 45 games, and the Fox Network and ESPN will show the remaining 12 games. **Chip Caray**, who worked games for Peachtree TV last year, will be doing games for Fox Sports South and SportSouth, replacing **Jon Sciambi**, who left for ESPN. He'll be paired with **Joe Simpson**. **Jim Powell** and **Don Sutton** again will work all radio broadcasts on Rock 100.5 and 680 The Fan, as well as Braves Radio Network affiliates. See pages 48-49 for the complete regular season broadcast schedule that's included in the schedule calendar.

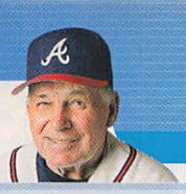
Additionally, seven spring training games are scheduled to be televised, beginning with the Mar. 16 game against Florida at ESPN Wide World of Sports (1:05 p.m.), and 30 games will be on radio. See page 52 for the complete spring training broadcast schedule.

ON A ROLL

With nearly 40 stops in Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, the Braves Community Caravan was scheduled to travel more than 3,000 miles and greet thousands of fans during a two-week stretch leading up to spring training. Several of the Caravan stops are documented elsewhere in this issue (pages 10-11, 12, 39).

Bobby Cox, **Brian McCann**, **Jo-Jo Reyes**, **Mike Dunn**, **Jordan Schafer**, **Roger McDowell**, **Don Sutton** and **Brian Jordan** were to participate in the Feb. 9 Caravan stops around metro Atlanta, beginning with a tree planting with the Boy Scouts in Turner Field's Monument Grove. A luncheon for season ticket holders at Wildfire followed, and then a trip to the VA Hospital in honor of "Salute to Veterans Week."

BOBBY COX



MANAGER

YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE "ACE" IN HUDSON

IF YOU'RE GOING to have a good team, it has to start with your pitchers, and I think we have a good team because of our pitchers. Our starting five are strong, and our middle and tailend of the bullpen are strong.

It's a strong, reliable starting staff, very capable of pitching innings - not just eating up innings. They're all good pitchers with their own strengths. I predict that our guys are going to pick up where they left off and be even stronger.

I look at Tim Hudson as our ace, and people forget that he's been an ace for a lot of his career. He's back from surgery and rehab, and he looks terrific. I think we're going to see the ace this season. If we didn't think he could pitch effectively, we wouldn't have re-signed him. He's as tough a competitor as they come.

Derek Lowe was tied with Javy Vazquez as our winningest pitchers last year (15). He did have a few games that were not good, and he would be the first to admit that. But he's another guy that's extremely reliable. I've always liked him. He's got that great sinker. Derek is someone who goes out and competes and gives you a chance to win every time he takes the mound.

I was perfectly satisfied with Kenshin Kawakami's performance last year. When there were big games, he stepped up and beat the best. If he is, in fact, the fifth starter on our club, he's as good a fifth starter as you're going to find.

With regard to Tommy Hanson, he pitched some terrific games, and I think he's only going to get better and better and better, and eventually become an ace. He's got that stuff.

Everyone seems to forget Jair Jurrjens. He's a tremendous young pitcher, already living his bright future. He couldn't have had a better season in 2009. The wins didn't come when they should have. I can't say enough about him. We have really good competitors on our staff.

> "HE (TIM HUDSON) LOOKS TERRIFIC... HE'S AS TOUGH A COMPETITOR AS THEY COME."

We have a lot of guys we'll be looking at for our bullpen. It will be very competitive. Jesse Chavez, who we got from Tampa Bay for Rafael Soriano, looks really good and throws hard. And the lefty, Michael Dunn (Yankees) that everyone raves about, sounds good.

I'm very anxious to see the minor league guys in our own system that I've heard about, as well as guys that we got through trades. In Dunn's case, I didn't get to see him pitch last year, but we've had video. You have all these ideas in your head about how they look from what you've been told, but it's great to actually see them for the first time.

There are a lot of pieces of this club floating around, and as we do every year, we're going to have to wait to see how everything comes together. In our outfield, a lot depends on whether or not Jason Heyward makes the team out of spring training. He's young, yes, but he's going to be given a chance to make the team.

I think Troy Glaus, our new first baseman, has a lot of talent. He's only 33 years old, and he says his shoulder has never felt better. Going to first base is not easy. You can't just stick someone at first who doesn't have the instincts for the position. But in Troy's case, he's big and has always had good hands. All he needs to work on will be cutoffs and footwork and things like that. I don't think it will be that foreign to him.

We've got a nice looking bench. Eric Hinske is dangerous. He can play first or third and maybe some outfield. He can be a game changer, because he can really hit the ball out of the ballpark. Now matter how our starting eight goes, our bench looks very strong.

Toward the end of March comes the hardest part of spring training, making the cuts. It's no fun, and I dread it - always have.

PLAYING PEPPER

PETER MOYLAN

ALLISON SHIRREFFS

Moylan originally signed with Minnesota in 1996, was released by the Twins after two years, and didn't return to pro ball until the Braves signed him in March 2006.

INTERVIEW BY
PATTY RASMUSSEN

CHOPTALK: How was your off-season?

PETER MOYLAN: Magnificent! (Laughs) Really, it was great. It was long enough to be relaxing, and now spring training is right around the corner. I'm 100 percent ready to go.

CT: You spent the majority of your time at home in Australia. What did you do?

MOYLAN: Well, most of my time was spent with my kids (daughters Montana and Matisse). But I also took (girlfriend) Mandy (Coupel) to Perth to show her where I grew up and to meet my father. We spent some time in the Margaret River area, and visited Sydney. I made sure to show her the Opera House and the harbor. We took a boat tour and did the touristy things that I take for granted being from here. Around Christmas and New Year's, we went to Mallacoota (in Victoria), and that was really great. We did some swimming and fishing. We rode bikes, all that good fitness stuff. My girls will come to Florida for two weeks in February before the workouts start, so we'll have several days of visiting theme parks down there. They're very excited about that.

CT: You now hold the Braves' record for the most appearances by a pitcher in a season (87). How did you feel about achieving that?

MOYLAN: It's one of those records that you won't see mentioned on ESPN or the MLB Network, but I'm very proud of it because it says I was available when I was needed to pitch. That's important to me, especially last year when I was coming back from surgery.

CT: You believe that record effectively answered any questions there might have been about your arm health after the Tommy John surgery (2008)?

MOYLAN: I think so. Certainly, early on, there were plenty of questions about how I was going to do. And I had them myself, especially early in the season, as well. I was thinking, "What the heck is going on here?" But by the run up to the All-Star break and after the break, I had gotten into a rhythm that I was able to stay in. I felt great all season long.

CT: You came to an agreement with the Braves in mid-January for a one-year deal and avoided arbitration. Was it important for you to avoid arbitration and have a deal in place before going to spring training?

MOYLAN: I was back in Australia when much of the process was going on, so I was fairly removed from it. I didn't get back to the U.S. until Jan. 16. Going to arbitration was not my preference and we exchanged figures that were fair and reasonable, so we were able to get everything done within days of me getting back. I was glad for it, because I didn't want to go to spring training without a contract. If I did that, I would be feeling as though I had to prove something. For me the process was quick and painless, and I'm ready to get to work.

CT: How long of a break did you give yourself after the end of the season?

MOYLAN: I took six to seven weeks off from throwing and three weeks from working out. Once I started working out again, I went right into light lifting, swimming and bike riding. Around the middle of November, I began throwing again. Even then, it was just playing a little catch to loosen things up and make sure everything was still working. My arm is healthy, and I'm building up my strength and velocity. I'm on target for being ready to go, at full strength, in April. I was throwing with guys down at Turner Field once I got back to Atlanta.

CT: Do you set personal goals for yourself each season? That's probably difficult to do for a relief pitcher.

MOYLAN: It is really hard because there is no set number of starts or number of innings you're shooting for. Everything depends on how often you're used. The main thing for me is to be ready every time I'm called upon. My goal is to get this team back to the playoffs. Frank Wren did a great job with acquisitions this off-season, and it's up to us to turn his pickups into gold.

> "FRANK WREN DID A GREAT JOB WITH ACQUISITIONS THIS OFF-SEASON, AND IT'S UP TO US TO TURN HIS PICKUPS INTO GOLD."

CT: Did you follow all of Wren's moves from Australia?

MOYLAN: I have a very strong support structure of friends who avidly read MLB.com and traderumors.com, and as soon as anything was written, I heard about it! I heard about (Billy) Wagner and (Takashi) Saito coming in December, and it was great news. I really am excited about the things Frank did to help the team, adding Troy Glaus and Eric Hinske. That Glaus deal sort of flies under the radar, but

if he has a year like the ones everyone knows he's capable of, and we've got Chipper (Jones) and Brian McCann hitting around him, it could be awesome.

CT: So, you're excited about the new guys in the bullpen?

MOYLAN: I've met Wagner before, and he's an awesome guy on the field but also off the field. We've talked about the Tommy John surgery. I haven't met Saito, but I've seen what he did in Los Angeles, and he was lights out and very good for Boston at the end of last year. You always miss the personal relationships that you make, in Michael (Gonzalez) and (Rafael) Soriano, but as far as pitching goes, I believe Frank made up for the losses. I think we're going to have a great bullpen this season. We've got fun guys, full of cockiness and absolute playfulness!

CT: You've probably got the most years of Braves service of any of the bullpen pitchers. Does that mean you get the recliner or get to redecorate the little room in back of the bullpen?

MOYLAN: (Laughs) I'm not going to touch that! Wagner's got the veteran status sewn up. I'm still as much of a rookie as I was three years ago when I came to the Braves.

CT: Can you describe the process of getting your arm back in shape to pitch going into spring training, because it is a process, right?

MOYLAN: Absolutely. In early February, I'm at about 80 percent. It's not the effort level that increases, it's more that the arm strength increases. The amount of effort you put into it means that the ball is coming out quicker. I'm probably velocity and arm strength and consistency wise about 80 percent, but I'm still trying to throw as good as I can. I worked on my sinker and changeup first, and don't start throwing sliders until the second or third week of February. By the end of spring training, by that last week, is when I want to be at full strength. In early February you're saying to yourself, "Spring might be around the corner, but there's still six weeks before the season starts." I have the whole of spring training to get myself to 100 percent.

CT: During spring training do you have a set number of innings in mind that you want to get in a game setting?

MOYLAN: No, that's up to the manager and the pitching coach, but it usually ends up to be about 10 innings once the games start, which is perfect. You're throwing on the side when you're not pitching in games.

CT: You said you still feel like a rookie, but you're certainly older (31) than some of the guys in the bullpen. Do you feel like you have something to offer the younger pitchers in terms of mentoring or experience?

POLIYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

Not only did Moylan set a franchise record with 87 appearances last season, but he also set a major league record for most outings without allowing a home run.

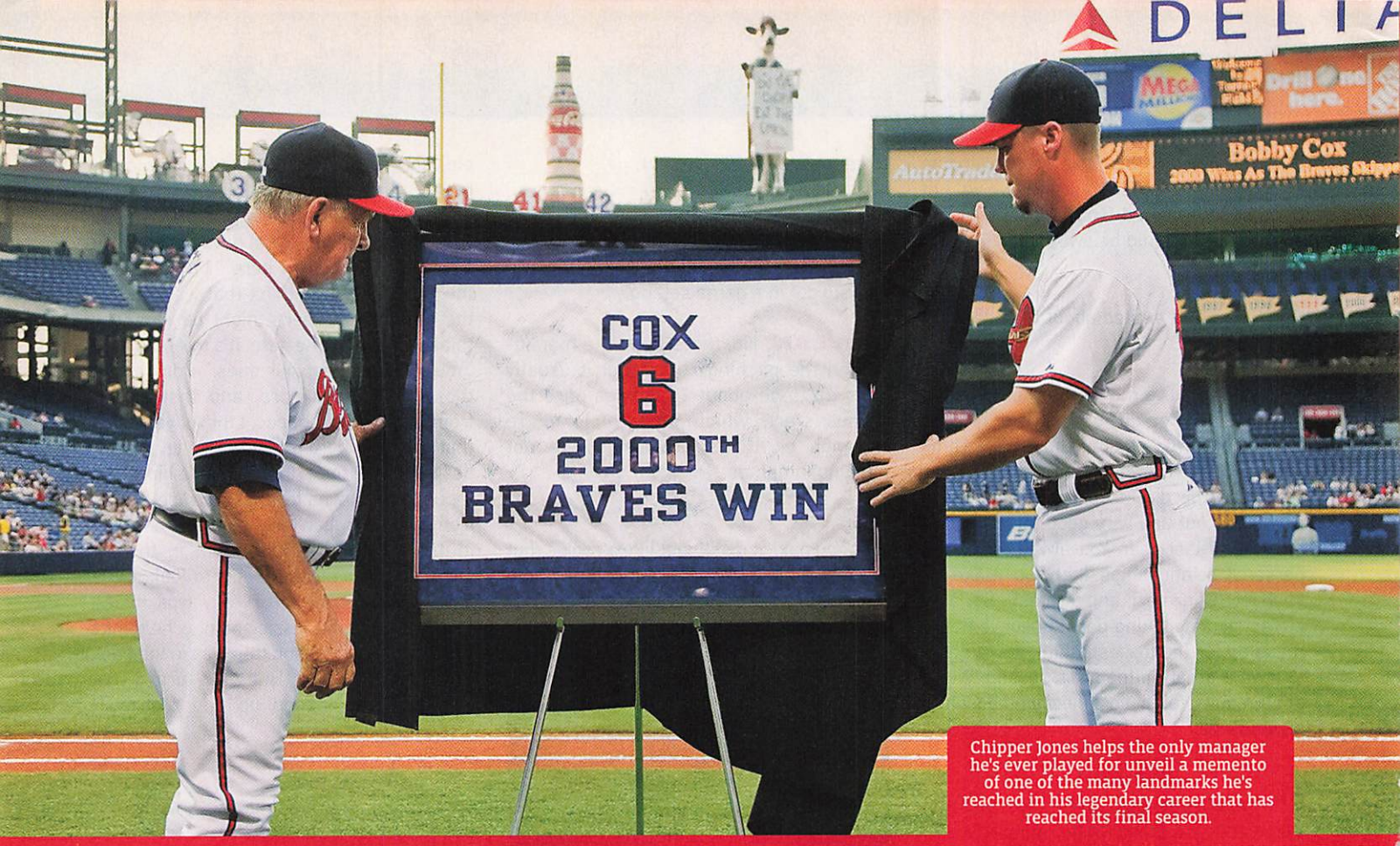
MOYLAN: If they come to me with a question, I'll certainly answer it to the best of my ability. I don't feel like I have all the answers. I still ask questions. Like when (Billy) Wagner comes, I'm going to pick his brain. I'm more here for comedic relief rather than mentoring. Let's be honest! I'm there to make the kids relax and feel like they should be here. I came in as a 27-year-old, and when I first walked in the clubhouse, I thought, "Man, do I really deserve to be here?" That's always in the back of your head, thinking "what have I done to get here" and "why am I here." I'm sure that there are kids who think that way, and on the other hand, there might be kids who think they should be here. It's my job to say, "You've got to pay your dues." I don't have those doubts anymore, and that comes from confidence, not ego. I think I've proven that I worked hard to get to this level and I deserve to be here. Initially, it's a big thing, though, and it was for me, because I came from the Australian leagues, spent a month in Triple A, and suddenly I'm in the big leagues. I didn't want people to look at me like a freak show, "This guy was in the (World Baseball) Classic and now he thinks he can pitch here," and that was in the back of my head in 2006. But 2007 turned that around. Guys opened up and realized I could pitch.

CT: Do you still feel like you have something to prove to yourself?

MOYLAN: I feel like I have to prove something every day. If I'm doing my job, if everyone on this team is doing their job, we're going to win a lot of ballgames. It's probably more just pride in the work you do and knowing if you're not doing your job, you're getting paid for no reason. I've been in a different industry (sales of pharmaceutical containers and packaging), and if you're not performing, you're not there anymore. In baseball, guys have the opportunity to stick around if they're not performing, based on what they did in the past. It's a personal pride issue, big time. Not everybody has that sensibility, but they should. I've come through the work force. I worked for 10 years, getting up at 6 a.m., home at 5 p.m., like a normal "Joe" and I know what it's like if I don't perform and reach targets. That's how I approach the game. I don't have set targets, but I know what I need to do, I know what my numbers should look like.

CT: Did you get any new tattoos this offseason?

MOYLAN: No. I just got back, and it's too close to the start of this season to get anything new. I'll have to wait until after the season ends.



Chipper Jones helps the only manager he's ever played for unveil a memento of one of the many landmarks he's reached in his legendary career that has reached its final season.

ATLANTA BRAVES

IN THE RECORDS

Four-And-A-Half Season Stint In Front Office Possibly Cost Cox No. 2 On All-Time Win List

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

WHEN BOBBY COX hangs up his managerial cap at the end of the coming season, he will also leave behind a body of work in baseball encompassing every aspect of the game - coaching, player development and managing, both in the front office as a general manager and on the field. The truly astonishing thing is that from the minor leagues to the majors, he has been a success at everything he put his hand to. Just don't ask him to reflect on his records. At least not yet.

"My records are something I don't think about now - I honestly don't!" said Cox. "Maybe I'll tally all that up and look at it once I'm out of the uniform. Maybe it will have more of an impact. I just don't look at it - ever."

But plenty of other folks have weighed in on Cox's accomplishments and will continue to do so in the coming months.

"I don't believe there will ever be a manager who will have an impact on an entire organization the way Bobby Cox has on the Braves," said Hall of Fame pitcher Phil Niekro. "His 14 consecutive division wins for the Braves is unheard of. I know you should never say 'never,' but I honestly don't believe it will ever be done again in any sport, and Bobby was the constant. There are impact players. Bobby's an impact manager."

SECOND IN A SERIES

#6 THE FINAL SEASON

Cox's place in the record books is secure. In fact, as he enjoys pointing out, he actually earned 15 straight division titles in full seasons as a manager. The first came with the American League Toronto Blue Jays in 1985. But the capper is the 14 consecutive division titles with the Braves, from 1991 to 2005, a feat never before, or since, accomplished in any professional sport. During that run, the Braves also won five National League pennants (1991, 1992, 1995, 1996 and 1999) and the 1995 World Championship.

"He's had a long, extended record of success," said Roland Hemond, a respected and knowledgeable baseball executive, currently a special assistant to the president and CEO of the Arizona Diamondbacks. "You look at what he did, not just with the Braves but with Toronto, and marvel at the consistent results. And he did it in every facet of the game."

Because of his own Braves pedigree - Hemond worked for the Boston and Milwaukee Braves in their farm systems and is a member of the Boston Braves Historical Association's Hall of

Fame - he is especially pleased by Cox's contribution to the Braves franchise legacy.

"He has definitely perpetuated and enhanced the legacy of the Braves franchise along the lines of what Hank Aaron, Eddie Mathews, Warren Spahn and others have done," said Hemond.

Cox enters the 2010 season as the major league manager with the longest current tenure, 19 and one-half years, dating to mid-1990 when he replaced Russ Nixon 65 games into the season and also remained GM. This will be his 29th season as a major league manager overall and his 25th as Braves manager, including his first stint in 1978-81.

With 2,413 wins to his credit, Cox is just 139 shy of St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa's 2,552. But La Russa, three years younger than Cox, didn't take four years out of his managerial career to serve in the front office as a general manager, as Cox did from 1985 until 1990.

It's generally conceded that Cox, or anyone else for that matter, could never catch Connie Mack, the Hall of Fame manager of the Philadelphia Athletics whose tenure was aided by owning the team, in career wins (3,731). But John McGraw, who's in second place with 2,763 victories with the Giants and Orioles might have been within range, if not for the four and a half year break in Cox's dugout career. Certainly, he would be ahead of La Russa at this juncture if not for his GM stay.

In order for Cox to have passed McGraw, he would have needed four seasons of 88 wins (a little less when factoring in the missed first half of 1990), to which Braves president John Schuerholz says, "Maybe."

"I think he could have been number-two in all-time wins," said Schuerholz. "A lot depends on the teams he would have had, but the two organizations he managed for (Toronto and Atlanta) had teams that were pretty capable."

But the "what ifs" are just hot-stove speculations said Schuerholz.

"Where he ends up in the all-time wins list won't have any significance at all in terms of the evaluation of his total career and the greatness of it," he said. "It will not be diminished at all."

But it wasn't just the sheer volume of wins Cox accumulated. It was how he won them. The 2005 season, the last time the Braves won their division, is a perfect snapshot of the combination of Cox's managing acumen and skill at bringing out the best in young talent. Using 18 different rookies, including Brian McCann, Jeff Francoeur and pitchers Kyle Davies and Macay McBride, Cox overcame the loss of key players - Chipper Jones, catcher Johnny Estrada, and pitchers Tim Hudson, Mike Hampton and John Thomson - to injuries for extended periods of time.

His accomplishments didn't go unnoticed that season when he was named Manager of the Year by the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) for the fourth time in his career and by The Sporting News for the eighth time. The Braves 90-72 record in 2005 also gave Cox his 14th 90-or-more win season and placed him third all time in 90-win seasons behind McGraw (16) and Joe McCarthy (15), best known as the manager of the great Yankees teams from 1931 until 1946.

It is interesting to note that the managers with whom Cox's records are most inextricably linked - Connie Mack, Joe McCarthy, John McGraw and Baltimore Orioles managerial icon Earl Weaver - are all National Baseball Hall of Famers. Cox and McCarthy are tied with six 100-win seasons, one up on Mack and Weaver. Cox and Weaver are also linked, along with Al Lopez, former Cleveland Indians and Chicago White Sox manager, with 15 consecutive winning seasons. McCarthy leads with 20 consecutive winning seasons. And what Braves fan doesn't know that Cox holds the dubious record for ejections (151), beating out the former record holder McGraw (131)?

Tom Verducci, the veteran sports journalist for Sports Illustrated and member of the BBWAA, is among the current 16-member electorate who review the managers/umpire ballot for the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He described the selection process.

"There are no set criteria," said Verducci. "The Hall of Fame provides us with packages of statistical information so we can compare manager's stats against those of other managers. In that room, it's sort of like a court case. We have a discussion, and it's a combination of objective and subjective discussion. I love the subjective stuff because there are Hall of Famers in that room, and to have them speak honestly about their experiences, either playing with that guy or against him, fills in the total picture of the person you're discussing."

Though Braves fans, and most baseball fans, would see it as a forgone conclusion that Cox will be voted into the Hall of Fame, Verducci won't comment one way or another on his chances. In fact, Verducci might not be on the committee in fall 2011 when Cox's name will be considered for the first time. He did offer that, in his view, the totality of Cox's career is what impresses him most.

"There isn't just one thing that jumps out at you with Bobby Cox," he said. "And it's a disservice to him to say his career is defined by 14 straight division titles. To me, he is the consummate baseball man, starting with his strong background in player development."

Cox would be pleased to hear that, since player development has always been one of his passions. He is often credited with helping turn the Braves' farm system around when he moved from the field in Toronto to the Atlanta front office in October 1985. In the years he was Braves GM, the team drafted such players as Kent Mercker (1986), Steve Avery (1988), Ryan Klesko (1989) and Chipper Jones (1990), and Cox played a significant role in the development of Dale Murphy (1974), Ron Gant (1983),

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

BASEBALL'S GREATEST MANAGERS

* Hall of Fame

ALL-TIME WINS

1. Connie Mack*	3,731 (1894-96, 1901-50)
2. John McGraw*	2,763 (1899, 1901-32)
3. Tony La Russa	2,552 (1979-present)
4. Bobby Cox	2,413 (1978-85, '90-present)
5. Joe Torre	2,246 (1977-84, '90-present)

MOST WINS OVER .500

1. John McGraw*	+815
2. Joe McCarthy*	+792
3. Bobby Cox	+483
4. Walter Alston*	+427

MOST 100-WIN SEASONS

T1. Bobby Cox	6
T1. Joe McCarthy*	6
T3. Connie Mack*	5
T3. Earl Weaver*	5

MOST CONSECUTIVE WINNING SEASONS

1. Joe McCarthy*	20
2. Sparky Anderson*	17
T3. Al Lopez*	15
T3. Earl Weaver*	15
T3. Bobby Cox	15

MOST POST-SEASON WINS

1 Joe Torre	85
2. Bobby Cox	66
3. Tony La Russa	59

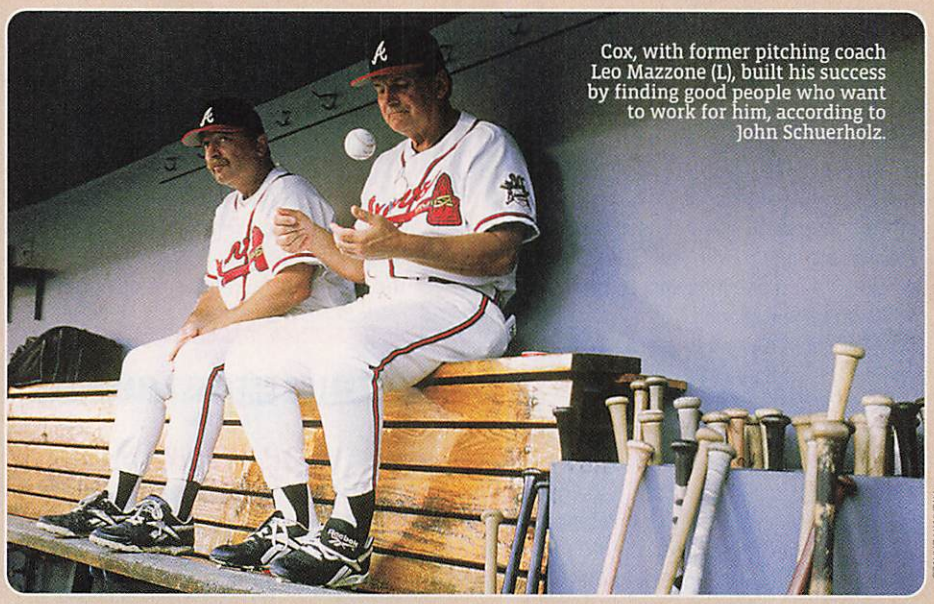
Tom Glavine (1984), and David Justice (1985), among many others.

Indeed, player development is a facet of the game he looks forward to getting involved in once he's retired.

"I think I'll probably visit the minor league clubs I haven't gotten to see...which is all of them," said Cox. "I haven't even gone to Gwinnett. Spending time with young players and following their progress is rewarding. It's a different type of reward than managing in the major leagues and competing at that level. It's rewarding to watch a player grow and get better at the game, to watch him take the skills he has and get better."

Niekro remembered the days when the Atlanta Braves were the laughingstock of baseball.

"No one wanted to play in Atlanta," he said. "Then Bobby became the manager, in



Cox, with former pitching coach Leo Mazzone (L), built his success by finding good people who want to work for him, according to John Schuerholz.

ATLANTA BRAVES

Dale Murphy: "We lost so many games... I'm surprised we didn't drive him out of managing."

BY PATTY RASMUSSEN

DALE MURPHY, the beloved Braves icon and member of the Braves Hall of Fame, holds his former manager, Bobby Cox, in the highest possible regard, in no small part because Cox never gave up on him, even when he had every reason to do so.

"I was one of those young kids in the late 1970s who was losing 100 games that he thought had a chance to be a major leaguer," said Murphy.

In 1978, Murphy made the Atlanta Braves out of spring training.

"I was a kid that didn't know what was going on," he said.

It was also Cox's first year as a major league manager.

"I remember he was pretty feisty and fiery," said Murphy. "But Bobby was pretty young for a manager (37). He was probably trying to figure things out, too, his way of doing things. I'd say he did a pretty good job of figuring it out!"

Murphy was the Braves' No. 1 draft pick in 1974, originally signed as a catcher. But as he made his way through the minor leagues and his first short big league callups in 1976 and '77, it became apparent that he didn't have the throwing accuracy necessary to catch at the major league level.

"The catching thing wasn't good," said Murphy. "My stats in Richmond, hitting-wise, were good, and I could move well on the bases, but I think they looked at me and thought, 'He's got a strong arm, he just doesn't know where it's going!'"

He was moved to first base in 1978, his first full year in the majors, but that didn't work either.

"Playing first base is a lot harder than people give it credit for! I was really struggling," he said. "Over the winter (1979-80), Bobby called and asked me about moving to the outfield. We had to change something, so I said, 'Sure!'"

It was a move that made all the difference for Murphy.

"I ended up making the All-Star team that year (1980), and suddenly, I had a career," he said. "I owe that to Bobby. There are a lot of people who wouldn't have been as patient, but he gave guys chances, and I'm just one example."

Murphy remembered Cox, much like his players, happy to be at the ballpark, involved in preparing for the games.

"He loved getting out there on the field," said Murphy. "Back before his knees got really bad, he'd throw batting practice and then go to first base and take throws from the infielders, from the second baseman and shortstop. We loved that!"

Despite his fiery demeanor when he argues with umpires, patience is one of Cox's great virtues, with individuals and with the team.

"We lost so many games," said Murphy of those teams from the late 1970s. "It must have really tried his patience. We were such a young team with no real identity. I'm surprised we didn't drive him out of managing."

As many other players have said about Cox, Murphy described him as a player's manager. But what does that really mean?

"Bobby never makes decisions on how it's going to make him look," said Murphy. "He looks after his players. It's easier to play the game when you're relaxed, and he's the type of manager who doesn't belittle or humiliate his players. He doesn't talk negatively about them in the press. His belief in me was part of my motivation. It

STORIES OF BOBBY

1978, and it slowly started turning around."

Niekro said that even though Cox was fired in 1981 by then team owner Ted Turner, he was responsible for the physical and emotional development of the 1982 team that won 13 in a row to start the season and eventually won the National League West under Joe Torre.

"His won/loss record didn't show it," said Niekro, "but those years leading up to 1982, we were growing the Bob Horners, the Dale Murphys. When Bobby left, he had built that club for any manager to bust wide open."

Cox left his mark on baseball, the record book will undoubtedly show that, but Schuerholz said Cox's success in every facet of the game boils down to what he called Cox's "essential ingredients."

"He's a real honest guy," said Schuerholz. "Bobby is well-respected. He gives respect, comfort, and kindness to people, and he gets it back. People like working for him, playing for him, doing whatever they can, doing their part so he can succeed. (Hall of Fame executive) Branch Rickey said it best, 'Luck is the residue of design,' but Bobby's record is not based on good luck or good fortune. He gets good people who want to work for him. He gets good players who want to play for him. They play hard. He demands professionalism and respect for the game of baseball - always - and those are the kinds of teams and organizations they put together."

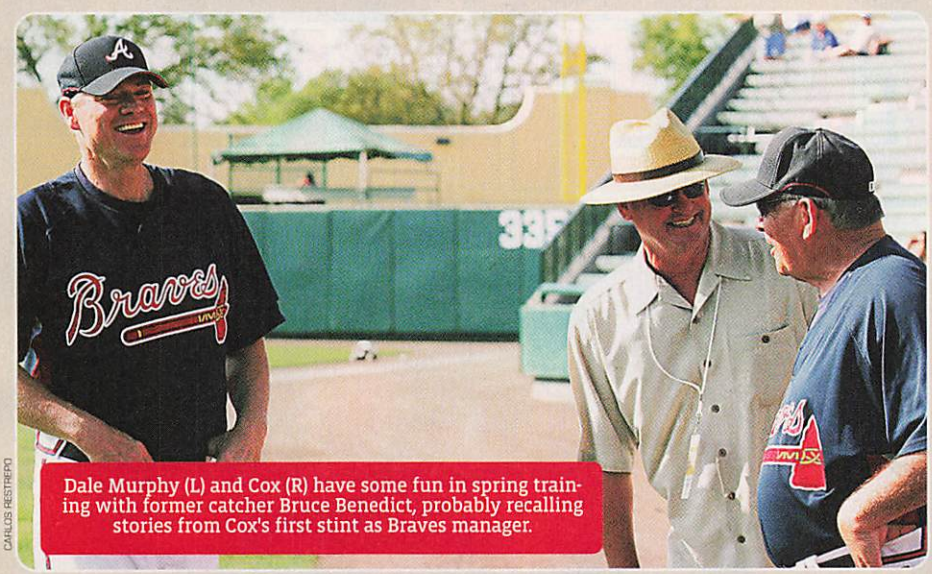
Rather than talk about his personal accomplishments, Cox prefers to put the praise back on the organization.

"I feel very fortunate having worked for John Schuerholz, (former Toronto GM) Pat Gillick, Frank Wren, and (former Braves GM, the late) Bill Lucas, who gave me my first job managing," he said. "They always supplied good players, and so far as the records and the wins and all that, we're all proud of that as an organization. Look, we all have an ego, or we wouldn't be in this game. I've done the best I could, but every aspect of the game has been a wonderful experience for me - not just the big leagues and winning the titles."

And as far as looking back, Cox said there will be plenty of time for that in the future. For now, he's focused on winning in 2010, and adding even more numbers to his stellar resume.

"Complacency is the enemy," he said. "Each year is a new year, and you have to let the past go. I'm still playing. I'm still trying to win."

NEXT MONTH: PART THREE.



CARLOS RESTREPO

Dale Murphy (L) and Cox (R) have some fun in spring training with former catcher Bruce Benedict, probably recalling stories from Cox's first stint as Braves manager.

was more motivating than the money."

Murphy remembered one of the many times during his early struggles when Cox stopped to talk to him.

"I was really having a tough time at the plate, and Bobby came by and said, 'Hey Murf, we gotta do something different! You'll hit second today," he said. "So that's what I did. It didn't really change anything, but he made me relax. He didn't want me to play like I was afraid to mess up."

In 1981, Cox was fired by then Braves owner Ted Turner and replaced by Joe Torre.

"It was the crummiest feeling I ever had," said Murphy. "It was my first experience playing for someone who got fired, and the thing was that a lot of the foundation for the success we had the following season (1982 division title) came during Bobby's tough years. Not to take anything away from Joe, because he's a great manager, but we knew we were on the verge of doing some good things with Bobby."

After a successful stint managing the Toronto Blue Jays, 1982 to 1985, Cox was back with the Braves, when he was named general manager in October 1985. Asked about Cox as a GM, Murphy said, "I didn't have a lot of day-to-day interaction with him at that time, but I do remember him sitting down with me one day, saying he didn't really like it in the front office."

It was four and a half years later that Cox returned to the field, after Russ Nixon was fired in the middle of the 1990 season.

Around the same time Cox returned to the Braves' dugout, Murphy went to him with a proposal. He doesn't remember what precipitated it, but Murphy said he went to Cox to tell him that he wouldn't come back with the Braves after the season.

"I was going to be a free agent," said Murphy. "I was struggling, the team was struggling. I spoke to my agent, to my wife, and told them, 'I think I need to go somewhere else.' I thought that might help my career."

Murphy said he'd seen players that hung on too long, and he didn't want that to happen with him and the Braves.

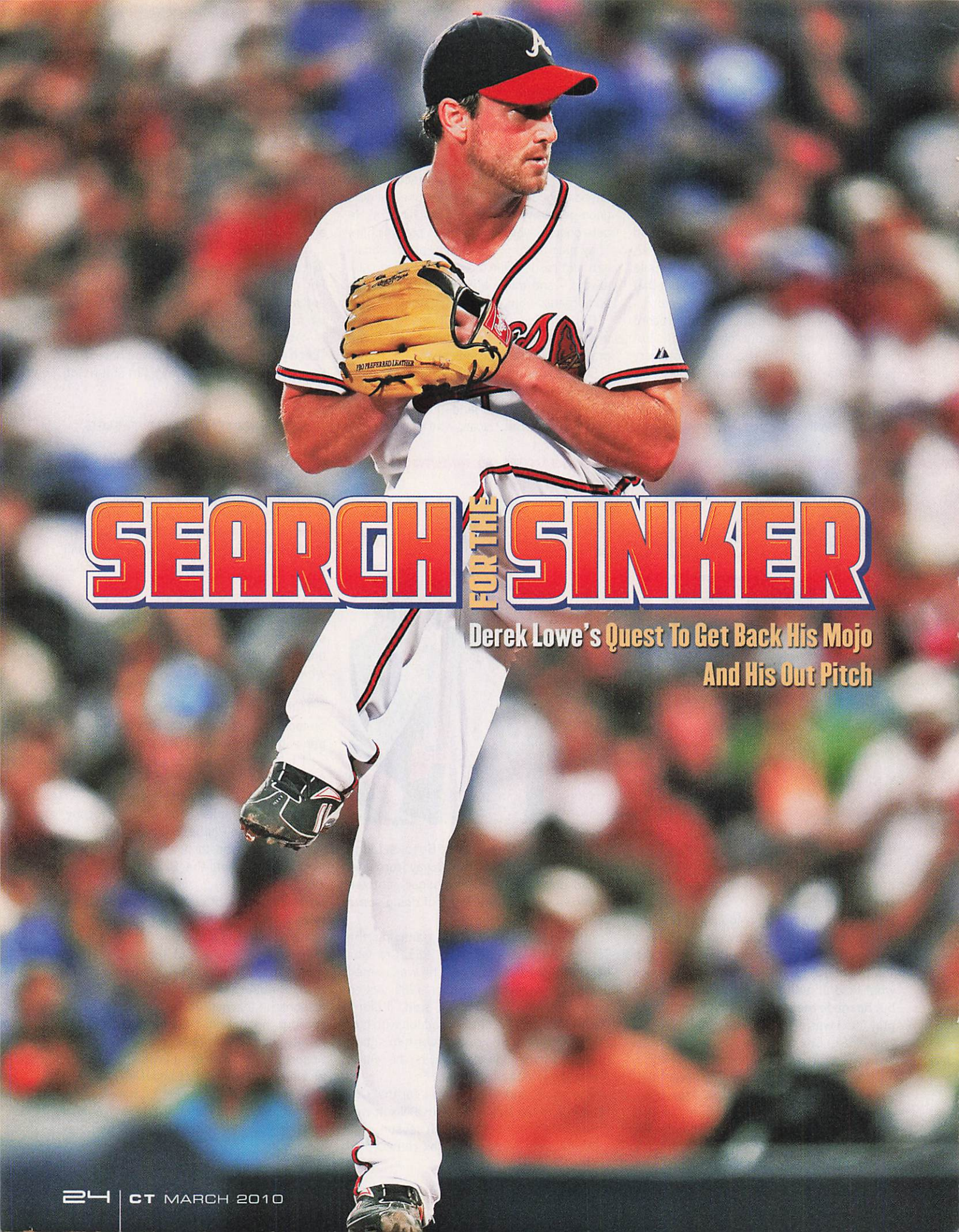
"I told (Cox) if there's a trade he could make, I'll go," said Murphy. "He asked me, 'Are you sure?' And I said, yeah."

A few days later, Cox asked Murphy, "How about the Phillies?"

Murphy agreed to it, and the deal was done. Murphy left the Braves on Aug. 4, 1990.

"In hindsight, of course, I would love to have been there in 1991 when everything turned around," he said.

Though 1990 marked the end of their professional life together, in no way did their mutual respect diminish. Asked what lessons he learned from Cox, Murphy said without hesitation, "Leadership through loyalty and respect. You don't often have the opportunity to work for a boss or a manager who has that kind of belief in you every day. He treats men like human beings, completely professional. I've always said, if you can't play for Bobby Cox, you can't play for anyone."



SEARCH FOR THE SINKER

Derek Lowe's Quest To Get Back His Mojo And His Out Pitch

BY JON COOPER

FEBRUARY 18 COULDN'T come soon enough for Derek Lowe.

The day pitchers and catchers reported to spring training meant officially saying goodbye to 2009 and going to work on 2010.

"It's been an uneventful off-season, which for a lot of guys is probably how they like it," said Lowe, who spent the winter at his home in Fort Myers, Fla., with wife, Carolyn, and a pair of adorable five-month-old brother and sister European Cream Retrievers they named Maximus and Moxie.

Sounds nice.

So, what would put Lowe in such a rush to leave all that and ride the approximately 150 miles to the Braves' training facility at ESPN Wide World of Sports in Kissimmee?

"There was about three or four weeks in there where there were a lot of trade talks and rumor about if I was going to go or stay," he said.

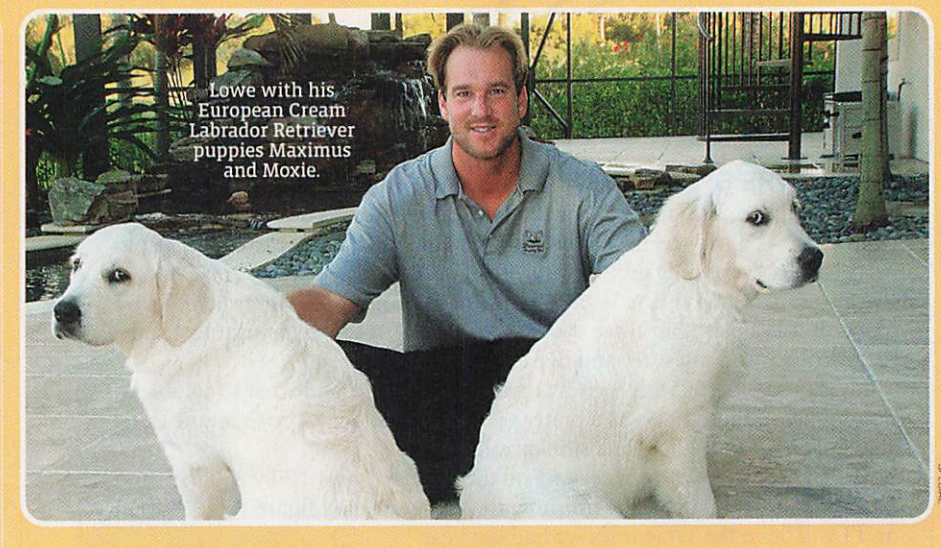
Oh, yeah, that...

The days leading up to the Braves' trade of Javier Vazquez and lefty reliever Boone Logan to the Yankees for outfielder Melky Cabrera, lefty reliever Mike Dunn, blue-chip prospect Arodys Vizcaino, and cash, was a nightmare for Lowe. But with that trade came peace of mind, knowing that he was going to get the opportunity to prove to the Braves and their fans that the 2009 season was an aberration.

The good news was that Lowe tied for the team lead with 15 wins, made 34 starts, 21 of them quality starts, and induced the third-most groundballs (389) and second-most (tie) doubleplay grounders (28) in the NL. Normally, those are positive signs for a sinkerball specialist. However, he also had a 4.67 ERA, his highest in five years and nearly a run and a half higher than his 3.24 with the Dodgers in 2008, allowed 232 hits, the most in the National League and a personal high, and fell short of 200 innings, (only 194 2/3, the second-lowest total since becoming a full-time starter in 2002).

"When I look at my season, there were way too many terrible games," said the 36-year-old righthander. "I understand people are going to have a bad game, but I had a lot of terrible games, and that was the most disappointing thing, especially coming down the stretch, where I normally have had success and enjoyed playing.

"My number-one goal for this year is to be more consistent, pitch more innings," he added. "Sometimes you learn a lot from a disappointing season. You have to learn what you have to do differently. You get stronger if you get the right attitude."



Lowe with his European Cream Labrador Retriever puppies Maximus and Moxie.

SPECIAL

He feels he has that positive approach and that he learned from an off-season that he admitted was hurtful, because his name was bandied about in trade rumors, surprisingly uncharted territory for a 13-year major league veteran.

In less than a year, and with three years remaining on his four-year, $60 million contract, the 6-foot-6 Lowe found himself going from a key piece in the Braves' puzzle to an expendable one. He didn't want to leave Atlanta at all, and certainly not on the heels of a finish that from Aug. 18 on produced a 3-3 record, with a 6.64 ERA in nine starts during which he lasted six innings only twice.

"I was just about six or eight months away from making a decision to come to Atlanta. I was happy there," he said. "I wanted to stay because I knew I could make a better performance this year. I'm glad [a trade] didn't happen. It's the first time I've ever gone through public trade rumors. You learn from it, and you move on."

Tim Hudson can relate to what Lowe went through during the 2009 season and off-season, as well as what it takes to rediscover a sinker that works. He believes Lowe has what it takes to do that.

"It's really frustrating, especially for a sinkerballer," said Hudson, who compared Lowe's 2009 with his second season in Atlanta in 2006. "A lot of it is confidence. He needs to go out there and get his confidence back. It's going out there and executing pitches, staying down in the zone, and not trying to think too much."

Not thinking too much also applies to the trade rumors.

"Your feelings can get hurt a little bit, but at the same time, it's a business and sometimes you have to have thick skin," Hudson said. "Just because a team talks about trading you doesn't mean they're unhappy with you. It was one of those things where there was plenty of starting pitching around here and the organization was trying to figure out what the best package was for the team."

Lowe, a two-time All-Star with Boston (2000, '02), believes that he may have overthought and over-adjusted last season in trying to regain his form.

"Sometimes trying to correct things isn't always the right avenue," he said. "When you try to make a change to too many things, you lose kind of what you're doing out there. Your muscle memory goes away. You can become too mechanical. Instead of just being a pitcher out there, you worry about too many mechanical things, and that can lead to some disappointing outings because your focus isn't on the right thing."

During the season, Lowe and pitching coach Roger McDowell watched countless hours of video, spotted mechanical problems, and went about correcting them. Lowe continued watching video during the off-season until he decided he'd seen enough.

"I did a lot of reflecting when the season was over," said Lowe. "I looked at a lot of video of the last five or six years of my career and kind of broke it down. Then I just let it go. I think I've done a good job this off-season of finding those [flaws] and working on them."

McDowell understood Lowe's reaching the point where he needed to turn off the VCR and just get back to pitching.

"There are times you can get over-

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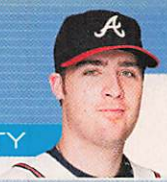
POLIVA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES



I'M HOPING TO PICK UP WHERE I LEFT OFF IN '09

DURING THE OFF-SEASON, I spent most of my time catching up with family. I'm from Walla Walla, Washington, on the other side of the state from Seattle. I took a trip to Hawaii for about two weeks. We went to Maui, just to relax and let everything go.

I also took a trip to Las Vegas for three days, and that was enough. I love Vegas. It was a blast, but three days was plenty for me. I went with my brother, girlfriend, and my sister and her husband.

I was pretty happy with the way I was used last year and what I was able to accomplish. I thought it was a pretty good year and look to do the same thing this season. I think I'll be in a similar role.

We signed those two back end of the bullpen guys (Billy Wagner and Takashi Saito), and they'll be finishing the game, and so I figure Peter Moylan and I will be in the same roles we had last year.

I was really excited about the additions to the bullpen. As long as both those guys are healthy, they're going to be lights out. Everyone knows that, so mainly we're looking at the same thing as last year - two strong, proven closers. Moylan is fully recovered from surgery. He should be where he finished the 2009 season. I think our bullpen looks pretty good.

The organization really went out this off-season and found the pieces the team needed to compete. You look at the way our team began playing when Nate McLouth joined the team, when Martin Prado started playing at second. You look at the way the team finished.

> "THE ORGANIZATION REALLY WENT OUT THIS OFF-SEASON AND FOUND THE PIECES THE TEAM NEEDED TO COMPETE."

The team we finished the year with looked a lot different than the team we started with. A lot of guys improved throughout the year, too, but if we can play like we did in the second half of 2009, it should be a pretty exciting year.

My arm feels awesome. I started throwing around January 1, just easy throwing, long toss to get my arm in shape. I usually start a little earlier, but last year was a long season, so I let it rest. I feel as though I never stopped throwing, though. Everything feels good. My first bullpen session, throwing off the mound, happened at Turner Field during the early throwing practice.

I have plenty of goals. I want to pitch well and have a good spring. I want to finish the spring feeling good and healthy, being able to locate my pitches, and having everything feeling right.

The goal for spring this year is mainly getting ready for the season, which is kind of nice. Last year, coming in, I had no clue what was going to happen. I don't feel like I have to throw the best bullpen of my life for Roger (McDowell) in order to impress him. He knows what I'm capable of, so it's easier to go about my business to get ready for the season.

This year it's nice to be able to focus on working on my pitches, changeup, fastball and slider, and for the season I just want to be better than I was last year - have better numbers.

This spring I'm going to work on throwing more two-seam fastballs. Last year I threw a lot of four-seam fastballs, and it's a pretty effective pitch. I'd like to throw more two-seamers to both sides of the plate. I don't feel as though I have as much to prove during spring training, though I still have as much to prove during the season. You have to get out there and do the work to keep your spot.

I had a full, healthy off-season and had a lot of time to get in good workouts. I probably lost about five pounds, but I reshaped the weight I'm carrying. I think I've gotten stronger.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

whelmed with a lot of video," he said. "Pitching is a lot of feel. You can't feel watching a video. You can obviously see and try to correct those flaws as quickly as possible."

Lowe, who led the AL with 42 saves for Boston in 2000 and won 21 games two years later as a Red Sox starter, didn't see a need to change his physical preparation, which he said was the same as every off-season. He worked out four days a week, for two to two-and-a-half hours at a time, incorporating weightlifting, agility drills, and a lot of stretching (something he says he's been doing more as he gets older). A proponent of long-toss to build arm strength — something he continues throughout the season — Lowe said he planned to throw off the mound four or five times before reporting to spring training.

About the only change in his routine was delaying the start of it.

"There have been years before where I only take three weeks off," he said. "I just didn't think that three weeks was enough time to let my body fully recover, so this year I took a little bit more time off. It's something that you have to evaluate every off-season."

McDowell has no doubt about Lowe's enthusiasm and that the fitness fanatic will be ready to go, just like last spring.

"I don't expect anything different," he said. "I'm sure that when I'm walking in at 6:30 in the morning, he'll probably be running the stairs or doing some kind of activity. Last year's behind us. We expect Derek to give us a quality start eight out of 10 times and be a big foundation of this pitching staff."

Lowe's teammates also are confident he'll come all the way back.

"It's not like we're settling for him," said Hudson. "He just happened to have a little bit of an inconsistent year last year, but we still believe that he's going to come in and be a frontline starter for us."

"I want him to go out there and throw his 200 innings, I want him to lead by example," added Chipper Jones. "I want him to be a mentor to the Tommy Hansons and the Jair Jurrjenses, whether he has good outings or not. I think that his leadership can go a long way in tutoring these young guys. I'll take care of the position players, he should take care of the pitchers."

Lowe's ready to take care of business and meet those raised expectations in 2010.

"You want people to expect more. I think you should expect more from yourself," he said. "You always want to be looking forward, and that's where I am."

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CC# EXP.

"Fidgety" Kris

Perpetually In Motion, Medlen Is All Hyped For A Big Year In The Bullpen

BY JON COOPER

KRIS MEDLEN pulled up a chair and sat down in front of his locker, having finished his workout at the Braves' early throwing program the first week of February.

It may not have been the ideal setting for Medlen. Sitting still never is easy for him.

As he politely answered each question, he was a picture of perpetual motion... he tugged on his left pants leg which had rolled up as a result of his crossing, then uncrossing his legs... He ran his hand back through his hair, scratched his ear, rubbed his nose, wiped his forehead, tugged on his shirt, shifted his weight in the chair, then tugged on his left pants leg again, and the cycle began all over.

"I'm pretty high-strung," said Medlen with a laugh. "But I'm under control even though it sometimes doesn't look like it."

Medlen even refers to himself as "fidgety," which is not a bad thing in franchise lineage, since the MVP of the 1957 World Series Championship was Braves Hall of Fame righthander Lou Burdette, often referred to as "Fidgety Lou" because of his twitchiness on the mound.

Getting Medlen to remain still, or at least slow down, isn't really an issue to his teammates, not as long as he continues to channel that excess energy the way he has.

"He has a little bit of a tendency to be a little hyper, but I think at the right times he's able to corral that," said pitching coach Roger McDowell.

"I think that's what got him here though," said Brian McCann, "his eagerness to be great. He works really hard to achieve that."

That work has paid off and put the 24-year-old native of Artesia, Calif., into the Braves' plans for 2010, as an important piece of their bullpen.

Knowing he has a role coming into the season makes for a whole new ballgame from a year ago, when Medlen showed up at the Braves' early throwing program as an admittedly — and understandably — wide-eyed kid just hoping to make a good impression.

PEDRO DAMIAN / ATLANTA BRAVES

In the second half, Medlen had a 2.80 ERA in 26 appearances, holding opponents to a .246 batting average, including only .211 in August.

"I was just in awe that I was even here and that I got an invite to big league camp," recalled the former 10th-round draft pick of the Braves in 2006. "The younger guys coming up, I see the look on their faces, how excited they are. That's exactly how I was last year."

Medlen got the Braves excited about him, by pitching well in spring training, then quickly over-matching the competition at Triple-A Gwinnett, where he was 5-0 in eight games (six starts), with a 1.19 ERA (five earned runs in 37 2/3 innings), allowing 20 hits with 44 strikeouts vs. 10 walks.

On May 15, he earned his first call to the majors.

However, his first weeks in "The Show" were inauspicious, to say the least.

On May 21, Medlen made his major league debut at Turner Field against Colorado. He was fine for three innings, but in the fourth, overcome by nerves, he gave up a lead-off single, then uncorked two wild pitches, walked two batters, and hit opposing pitcher Aaron Cook, who would be his final batter. He was charged with six earned runs in three-plus innings.

His next start came five days later in San Francisco before a large contingent of family and friends that made the six-hour drive up from Southern California, and it came against defending-Cy Young Award Winner Tim Lincecum. Medlen matched goose eggs with Lincecum for all but one of his 5 1/3 innings of work. But he again was undone by his inability to handle the opposing pitcher. His two-out walk to Lincecum opened the door to a four-run second inning, the only four runs of the game.

"I held my own [against Lincecum]. I just I walked him," Medlen recalled. "I just keep looking at that walk. It's like, 'That was such a huge walk.' The first start was the first start. I'm learning. I'm a fidgety kind of guy, so it was definitely nerves, but I settled down and everything was fun."

The fun, and the turnaround, came two days after the San Francisco start, on May 28 in Arizona. Medlen credits Derek Lowe for it.

"D-Lowe went out with me like four hours before batting practice, and he went over his routine and slowing down," Medlen said. "I was out there like an hour and a half with him. It was really cool. It relaxed me a little bit. I had a hard time feeling like I was part of the team. I had had two awful starts, so it was really cool. He kind of took me under his wing and showed me the ropes. Everyone was very supportive."

Three days later, in his third start, his teammates were especially supportive. They gave him two runs in the first inning (his first two runs of support), and scored in four of the first five innings, nine times in all. Able to relax, Medlen did the rest, shutting down the Diamondbacks, allowing one run and four hits while striking out nine in six innings. The Braves won, 9-3. Medlen had his first major league victory, and the monkey was off his back.

A week after the Arizona win, he got even more good news, when his roommate and best friend, Tommy Hanson, got called up to Atlanta from Gwinnett.

That news came with a catch, however, as it required Medlen to change his role and move to the bullpen. It was a small price to pay to have his friend in Atlanta with him, and Medlen made the adjustment willingly and completely without drama or conflict with Hanson.

After all, Medlen didn't make a single start his first two pro seasons and had just 17 starts in 94 appearances prior to last season. His first pro start was June 5, 2008, for Mississippi.

"With (Hanson's) whole (top) prospect status and then me being called up before him, people made a big deal out of it, and asking him questions like, 'How does it feel having him up before you?'" said Medlen. "It was nothing like that. He was totally supportive the entire time."

Hanson still is.

"He's always had the stuff," Hanson said of Medlen. "I think it's more a mental thing, getting the confidence and feeling like you belong up here and just getting comfortable up here.

"Last year, Kris didn't really know where he was going to be," Hanson continued. "Once he did that, you saw what he did the second half. He dealt. I don't think it matters whether he starts or he's out of the 'pen. He's going to do really well this year, and he's going to be a lot more confident."

The move to the bullpen was a case of mind over matter for Medlen, who had been a closer in the minors, as recently as 2007 with Myrtle Beach (advanced-A) and Mississippi (Double-A).

"I just had to get the right mentality for it," he said. "Once I got to the bullpen I was a little bit unsure about my role, and I just kind of earned my way trying to get some better spots to throw in, more meaningful innings. I guess I showed Bobby I could do that."

Over the second half, Medlen pitched in 26 games to a 2.80 ERA, shaving more than three runs per game off his ERA from the first half. He allowed 11 earned runs in 35 1/3 innings (10 fewer than what he'd allowed in 21 appearances over 32 1/3 innings). He cut his walks in half (10 from 20) and cut 21 points off opponents' batting averages (.246 from .267), including a superb August, when he held hitters to a .211 average. Only twice did he allow runs in back-to-back games and didn't allow a run in six of his final seven appearances (a span of 10 innings, in which he allowed only two runs and seven hits).

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CHUCK JAMES TO TRY COMEBACK WITH NATS

REMEMBER CHUCK JAMES (LHP, 2005-08)? Nationals assistant general manager **Roy Clark**, the Braves' former scouting director, did. Clark watched James throw 88 to 90 mph in a January workout, and the Nats proceeded to sign him to a minor-league contract. James, 28, figures to fight for one of the Nationals' open rotation spots behind righthander **Jason Marquis** (another former Brave) and lefthander **John Lannan**.

The Phillies' long-term addition of righthander **Roy Halladay** and the Twins' expected signing of catcher **Joe Mauer** will diminish the 2010-11 free-agent class, but the group still figures to be highly attractive. Mariners lefthander **Cliff Lee**, Red Sox righthander **Josh Beckett**, Yankees (and former Braves) righty **Javier Vazquez** and Diamondbacks righty **Brandon Webb** will be among the top starting pitchers available. Rays leftfielder **Carl Crawford**, Nationals first baseman **Adam Dunn** and Red Sox catcher **Victor Martinez** will be among the top position players on the market, along with Cubs first baseman **Derrek Lee** and Phillies rightfielder **Jayson Werth**.

Don't count on **Adam Dunn** rushing into a contract extension with the Nationals. Dunn, 30, will be perhaps the top slugger on the open market next winter. Perhaps the Nats would be willing to give Dunn big dollars in an extension of his original two-year, $20 million free-agent contract – club officials seem comfortable with him at first base, though most baseball people view him as more of a DH. But true sluggers are becoming increasingly scarce in the drug-testing era, and Dunn could fit for a number of AL teams.

The Mets had perhaps the most curious off-season of any club, failing to add a single starting pitcher behind lefthander **Johan Santana**. Free-agent righthander **Joel Pineiro** identified the Mets as his No. 1 choice, but instead signed a two-year, $16 million contract with the Angels. He got tired of waiting for the Mets to sort through their other pursuits and raise their initial offer. One of the Mets' other targets was free-agent catcher **Bengi Molina**. But after Molina re-signed with the Giants, the Mets did not bother addressing their need at that position.

The Twins were not the high bidder for free-agent second baseman **Orlando Hudson** – at least in terms of total dollars. The Indians offered Hudson a two-year, $10 million deal, though the present-day value would have been lower. The deal was backloaded, and a significant portion of the guarantee was in the buyout of a third-year option, according to one source. Hudson, by choosing the Twins over the Indians and Nationals, went with the team most likely to contend.

The Dodgers enter spring training with numerous bench options. The team signed outfielder **Reed Johnson** to be its likely fourth outfielder, but also added **Brian Giles** on a minor league deal. The Cubs and other teams were wary of Johnson's past back issues. **Alfredo Amezaga**, coming off microfracture knee surgery, joined an infield mix that already included **Jamey Carroll**, **Blake DeWitt** and former Brave **Nick Green**.

- KEN ROSENTHAL IS A SENIOR WRITER FOR FOXSPORTS.COM

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ALLISON SHRREFFS

Medlen was promoted to Atlanta from Triple-A Gwinnett last May when the Braves needed a starter, then was moved to the bullpen to accommodate the arrival of top prosect Tommy Hanson in early June.

"I think he might have had the biggest jump from when he started to when the season ended," said McCann. "He's just an athlete. He can do it all. Anything you throw at him, it's not going to overwhelm him. He's well beyond his years, as far as his mental preparation of the game.

"That's what you do at this level. When you first come up you're learning what it takes to succeed," he added. "He found what he needed to do. He pounded the strike zone with his sinker, kept it low, and mixed his pitches. He was a big part of our success last year."

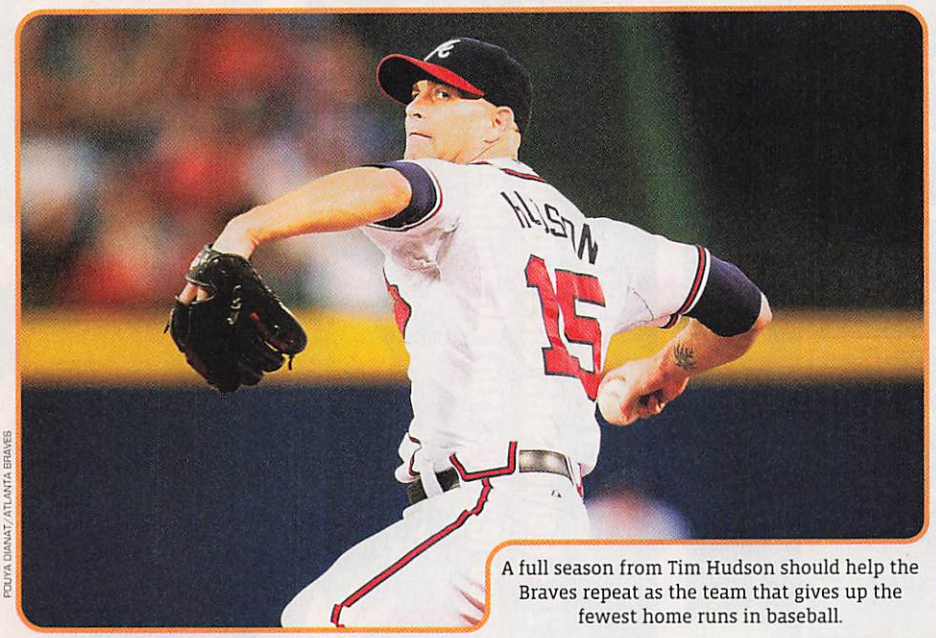
That success climaxed in September, when the Braves made a surprising rush at the wild card spot, winning 15 of 17 games from Sept. 10-28. It was too late to catch the Rockies, but it gave Medlen incentive for the future.

"That run was a lot of fun," he said. "It made you kind of realize how fun the playoffs could be, because it was a playoff kind of vibe and you could see the excitement in all the guys' faces. It was cool."

Medlen wants to see that look on his teammates' faces again in 2010, regardless of where and when he's called upon to pitch.

"[This year] I feel a little bit more mature and just ready to go," he said. "That is what I can take from last year. I always have to be ready."

FOUR TRENDS TO TRACK THIS YEAR



POLIYA DIANAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

A full season from Tim Hudson should help the Braves repeat as the team that gives up the fewest home runs in baseball.

BY STEVE FALL

WITH THE NEW SEASON right around the corner, here are four key questions facing the Braves.

First, will Bobby Cox finish his career in first place? Fourteen major league managers have retired with at least 1,500 career victories. Together, they won over 29,000 regular season games. Yet none of them finished in first place in his final season.

Cox has an advantage over the other 14 managers: The three-division structure makes it more likely for him to finish first. Many of the others managed when there were two eight-team leagues and no separate divisions. Still, the Braves must overcome the powerful Phillies.

Cox has two more amazing achievements within range. With 87 victories, he becomes the fourth manager with 2,500 wins. Only Connie Mack (3,731), John McGraw (2,763), and Tony La Russa (2,552) have reached this elite level. Should Cox win 17 more games than he loses in 2010 – which would require going 90-72 or better – he would retire 500 games over .500. Just two managers have achieved this feat: McGraw (+815) and Joe McCarthy (+792).

Second, will the back of the bullpen hold up? Billy Wagner faces a challenge in the closer role. The 38-year-old lefty must not only bounce back after missing nearly all of 2009 following Tommy John surgery, but he also will battle history. Only seven pitchers in their age-38 season or older have saved 30 games: Trevor Hoffman, Mariano Rivera, Jose Mesa, Todd Jones, Dennis Eckersley, Doug Jones and Tom Gordon.

Making the situation more tenuous, key setup man Takashi Saito is 40 years old. If Wagner should falter, Saito would likely take over as the closer.

Wagner's strong performance in the later stages of his career enhances his chances of beating the odds. Despite missing time due to injury, he still ties for the 10th-highest save total ever in his age-33 through 37 seasons (139). Among the 19 relievers to post 100 saves in that age range, Wagner owns the third-best ERA (2.11). That trails only Eckersley (1.90) and Rivera (1.97).

Third, can the pitching staff again excel at keeping the ball in the park? Last season, the Braves had baseball's equivalent of a prevent defense. They allowed just 119 home runs. Only two major league teams since 2000 gave up fewer home runs – the 2002 Giants (116) and 2005 Marlins (116).

There's no reason why the Braves can't continue their success in this area. Jair Jurrjens, Tommy Hanson and Derek Lowe all excelled last season. Jurrjens ranked ninth in home runs allowed per nine innings (0.63) among National League pitchers with at least 162 innings. Hanson (0.70) and Lowe (0.74) also kept the ball in the park.

Tim Hudson surrendered 0.85 homers per nine innings last year, but he only worked 42.1 innings. Since joining the Braves in 2005, he has an impressive 0.77 figure. In this category, Hudson should approach the departed Javier Vazquez (0.82 in 2009). Kenshin Kawakami allowed 0.86 home runs per nine innings last season. While the highest among the 2009 Atlanta starters, that still is a solid figure.

The bullpen's two best performers in this category last season both return. Peter Moylan did not allow a homer all year, and Eric O'Flaherty gave up two in 56.1 innings (0.32 per nine innings).

And fourth, will the defense improve? The Braves' fielding percentage (.985) ranked ninth in the NL last season. But fielding percentage only addresses balls put in play that fielders reach. Defensive efficiency measures the percentage of batted balls that get converted into outs, providing much greater insight into defensive performance.

Atlanta had a 68.7 percent defensive efficiency, which placed 13th among the 16 NL clubs. That demonstrates how the fielders lacked range, allowing too many balls to become hits.

While it is difficult to project who will play the most at certain positions, the Braves should improve their defensive efficiency from 2009. Martin Prado has a better career range factor (5.25) at second base than his predecessor, Kelly Johnson (4.95). Range factor is the number of successful plays a fielder makes per nine innings.

Garret Anderson played more innings in the outfield (1,026) than any other Brave last season, and posted a range factor (1.73) well below the NL average in left field (1.93). Melky Cabrera, who covers far more ground than Anderson, should see significant time in the outfield.

First base is one spot where the team could slip defensively. Troy Glaus, who has only played six career games as a first baseman, takes over a spot filled by two solid fielders in 2009 (Casey Kotchman and Adam LaRoche). Glaus hasn't seen enough time at first to evaluate his defense, but his 2.68 career range factor at third base matched the league average at that position.

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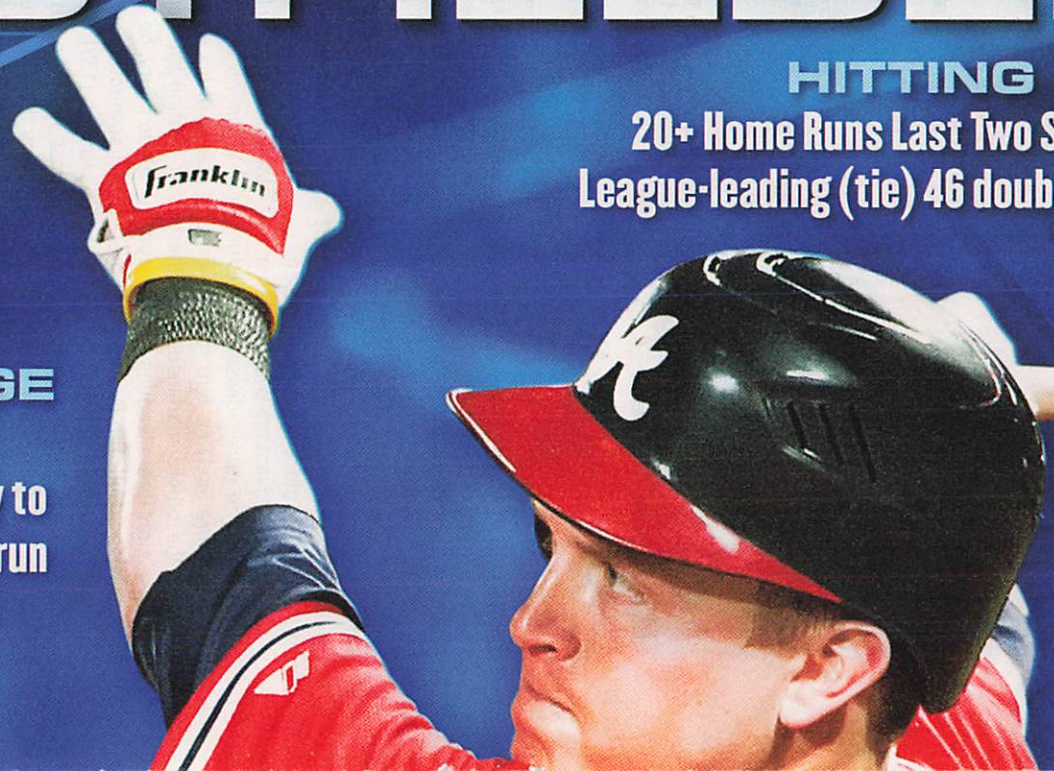

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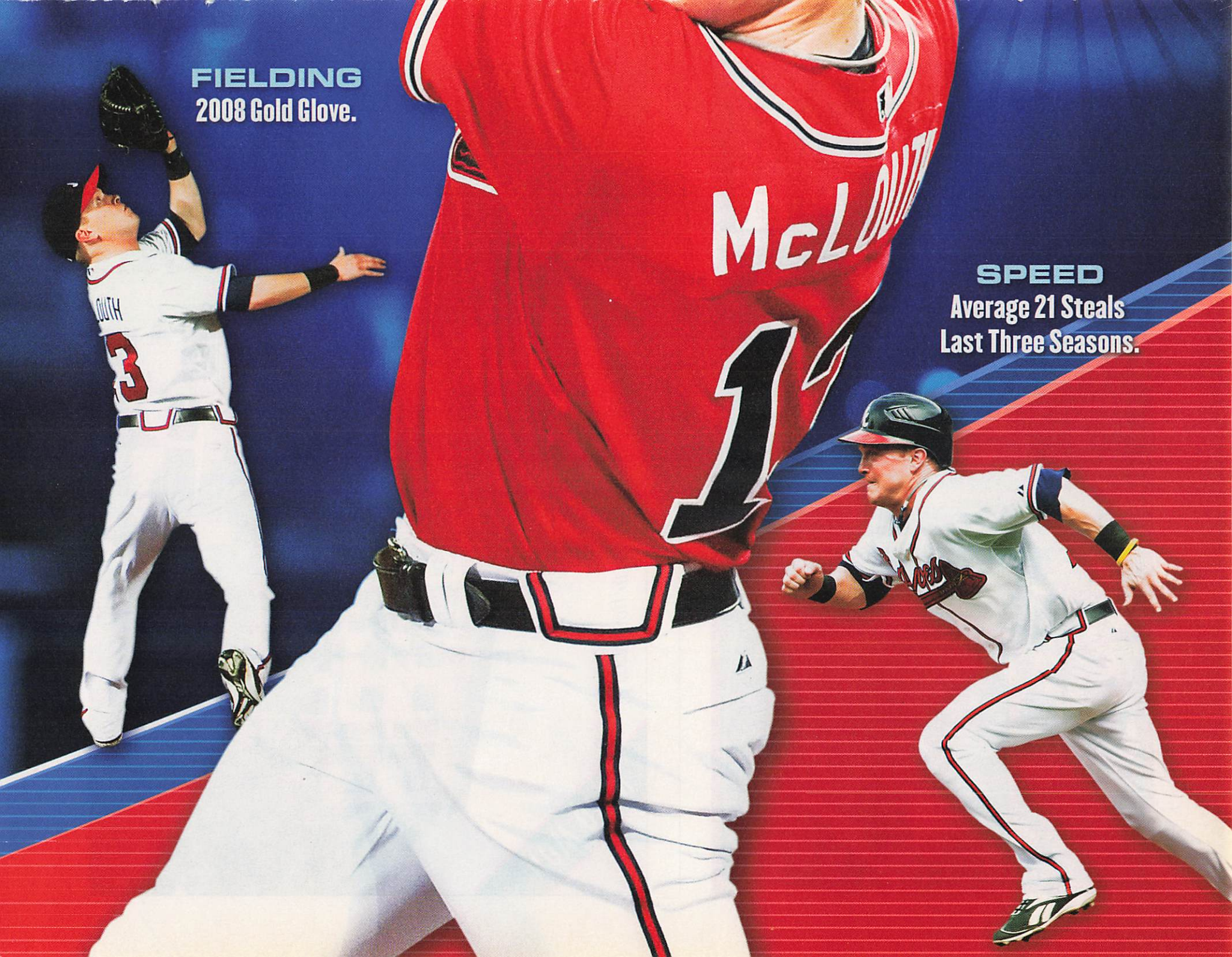
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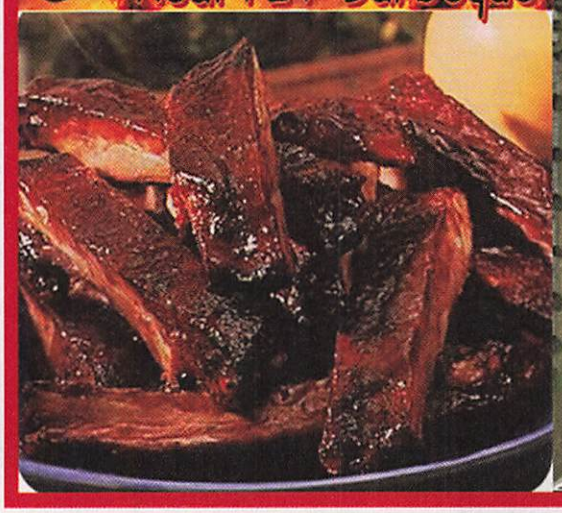

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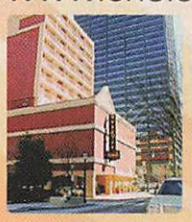

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BASEBALL'S HEISMAN TROPHY

CC Sabathia Picks Up His Third Straight "Spahnie" As Award Gains Even More Stature

BY GARY CARUSO

FOR MUCH OF HIS CAREER, Randy Johnson wore his hair rather long and stringy, and it got pretty unruly in the heat of battle. Warren Spahn, seldom one to mince words, wasn't fond of such an appearance, as might be expected of most Word War II combat veterans.

Thus, there may have been just a bit of apprehension back in 1999 when the "Big Unit" rolled into the small town of Guthrie, Oklahoma, to accept the first Warren Spahn Award (WSA), emblematic of being the best left-handed pitcher in baseball that year.

"I was waiting with Warren in the coffee shop of the Best Western Hotel when Randy got there," said Richard Hendricks, executive director of the Oklahoma Sports Museum that created the Spahn Award to honor the winningest lefthander (363 of which the first 356 were as a Brave) in history.

"Randy walked in and said, 'Warren Spahn! I'm really glad to meet you!' and stuck out his hand," continued Hendricks, noting, "Randy had long hair, but he'd trimmed it.

"Warren looked at him and said, 'Randy, you clean up pretty good... Glad to meet you, too!"

Thus was forged a genuine friendship between two of the greatest lefthanders of all-time, and at the same time, the "Spahnie" had cleared its first major hurdle. It has been growing in stature - little by little - ever since. The mere fact that Johnson was willing to travel to Oklahoma in the middle of winter, which he did out of respect for Spahn and his accomplishments, was a major victory for the organizers and set the tone for the future of the WSA.

On Jan. 26 at the sparkling new Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City, Yankees lefty CC Sabathia stepped to the podium before a stylish, black-tie optional crowd of 430 to accept his third consecutive WSA, one shy of Johnson's four straight from 1999-2002.

CC Sabathia and his wife, Amber, admire his third straight Warren Spahn Award that they'll display with the other two in the most prominent location in the office/trophy room of their home.

A mountain of a man at 6-foot-7, and every bit of the 250 pounds he's listed at (and then some), Sabathia accepted the trophy from Greg Spahn, Warren's son, and said with a smile, "Do I have to lift it?"

With two Spahnies already displayed prominently in the trophy room/office of his new mansion in New Jersey, Sabathia knew he could take credit for his daily workout just by picking up the hefty trophy and carting it back to his table.

The trophy that Minnesota Twins senior advisor Terry Ryan has called, "Baseball's Heisman Trophy," weighs a stout 40 pounds. And that's just the beginning of what makes it so unique.

In many ways, it is similar to the Heisman, which goes to college football's best player each year, because it is a 16" high bronze figure of Spahn in his signature high leg kick that's mounted on a circular 12" base (11" at top) of cast heavy resin with a large, distinctive plate bearing the winner's name and year. Overall, the striking trophy is 28" tall. Each piece is numbered and signed by the artist, Shan Gray, and has an appraised value by an Oklahoma City gallery of $15,000 to $18,000.

Gray's image of Spahn also has been used to create three nine-foot, bronze statues, the first of which was dedicated at Turner Field's Monument Grove in 2003, three months before Spahn died. The other two are at the Oklahoma Sports Museum in

Guthrie and at Bricktown Ball Park in Oklahoma City.

"CC and his wife, Amber, are very proud of the Warren Spahn Awards, and that is evident at their home," said Steve Reed, personal advisor to Sabathia. "They are in the most prominent spot in their office, which is a trophy room. That's not to take away from his Cy Young Award (2007), (three) All-Star awards, the World Series award or MVP of last year's ALCS, or any of the other trophies, which are all great. But the Warren Spahn Award is just so darn gorgeous. There's no other award or trophy in baseball that's as nice as it is. The Cy Young, the MVP, and many others have been around longer and have more prestige. But the Warren Spahn Award is the most beautiful trophy in baseball."

So far, no one has stepped up to dispute the WSA's splendor, which certainly is a fitting legacy for Spahn, who had as majestic a pitching motion as anyone in history. The trophy is presented each year at the Warren Spahn Award Gala, which was moved from Guthrie to Oklahoma City last year and is now administered by the Bricktown Rotary Club.

The 11th annual Gala even attracted Oklahoma's lieutenant governor, Jari Askins, and there's little doubt that moving the event to the state capital has added stature and accessibility that should enable it to continue to grow and prosper.

"Our board made the decision to create the award, and Shan put it together and made it the beautiful trophy that it is," said Hendricks. "It doesn't mean as much as the Cy Young, but it's a more impressive piece of hardware. The Cy is the Cy, and that will never change, but the Warren Spahn Award gets more fame and more recognition each year because of the men who win it and come here each year to honor Warren."

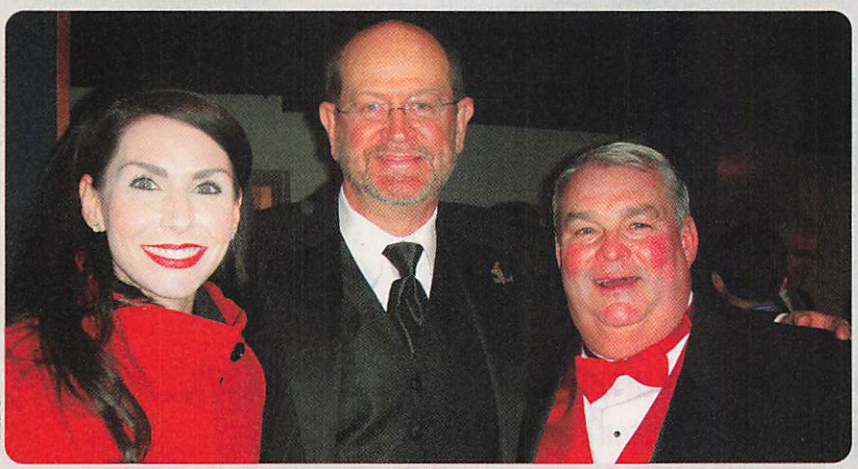
WARREN SPAHN AWARD* WINNERS

1999	RANDY JOHNSON
2000	RANDY JOHNSON
2001	RANDY JOHNSON
2002	RANDY JOHNSON
2003	ANDY PETTITTE
2004	JOHAN SANTANA
2005	DONTRELLE WILLIS
2006	JOHAN SANTANA
2007	CC SABATHIA
2008	CC SABATHIA
2009	CC SABATHIA

* Winner determined by formula using rank of each lefthander in victories, ERA and strikeouts for the season.

BRIAN BODINE

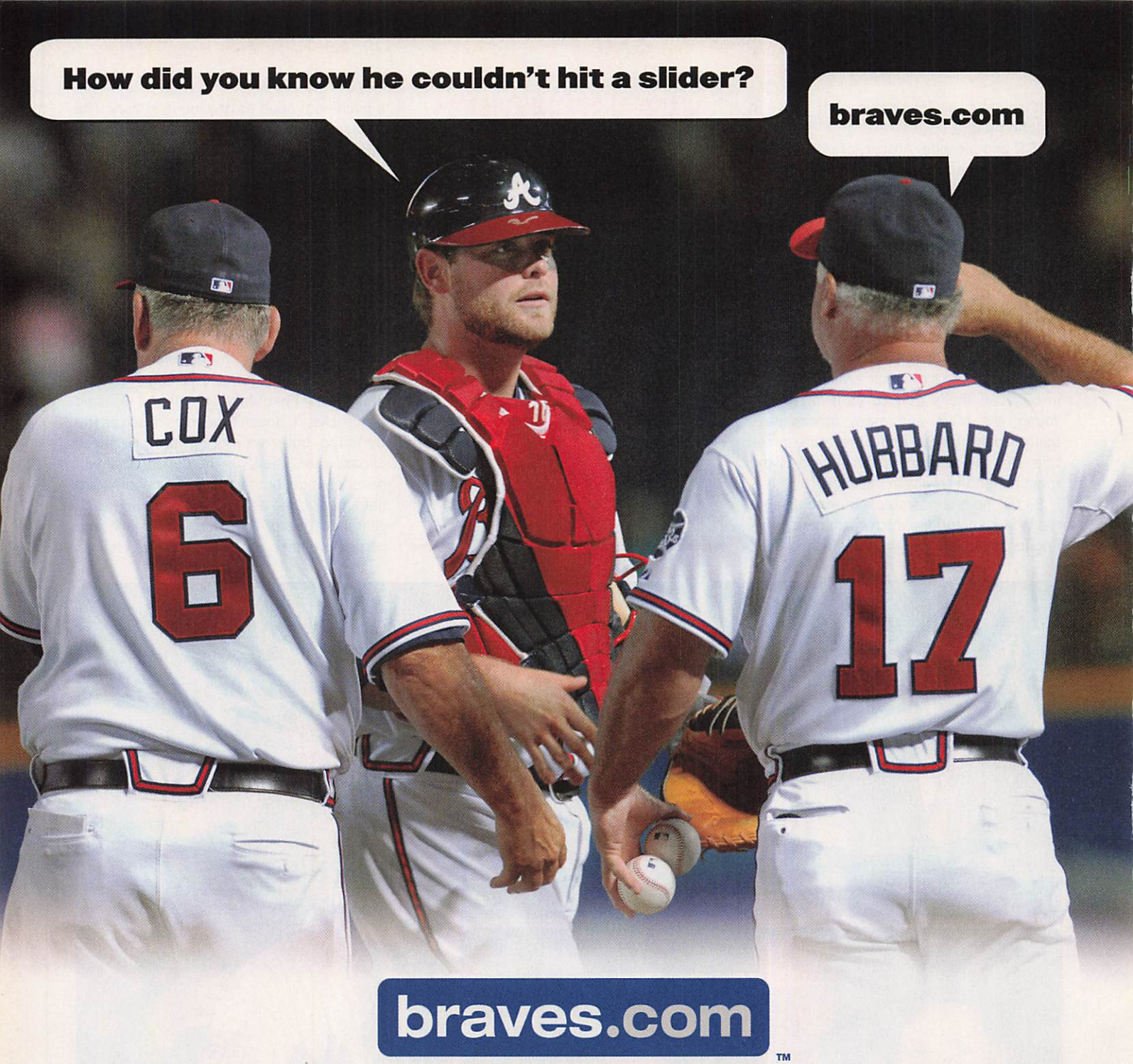
OKLAHOMA SPORTS MUSEUM



SPECIAL

BRIAN BODINE

Sabathia enjoyed his third trip to Oklahoma by mingling with celebrities such as Hall of Fame pitcher Ferguson Jenkins (top/left) and finding time to sign autographs for little people, too (R), especially if they were Yankees fans. ChopTalk editor Gary Caruso (center in bottom/left photo) visits with Warren Spahn's son, Greg, and granddaughter, Kara Jordan, and later spoke to the crowd about his admiration for Spahn (top/center), seen posing at the inaugural WSA Gala in 1999.



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WORKING IN RELIEF

Players, Employees Use Caravan Stop To Help Pack Supplies For Haiti Earthquake Victims

BY MARK BOWMAN
OF MLB.COM

AS CHIPPER JONES and Peter Moylan taped sets of crutches, team president John Schuerholz and general manager Frank Wren stood at another table assembling various medical supplies to be shipped to Haiti to provide aid to those still dealing with the detrimental effects of January's earthquake.

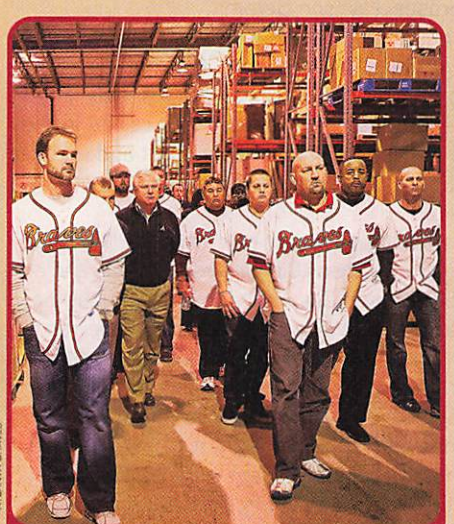
This was the scene the afternoon of Feb. 1 at MedShare International's warehouse just east of Turner Field in Decatur, where a group of 40 Braves representatives - players and employees included - spent time packaging items to be part of a 40-foot container sent to the devastated island nation.

"It's one thing to be able to give money, which we can all do, and another thing to actually come in here and get your hands dirty and feel like you've actually put your hands on something that's going to go down there to do some good," Jones said.

The MedShare warehouse served as one of the three stops made in the metro Atlanta area by the Braves Caravan on Feb. 1. The day's participants included Jones, Moylan, Schuerholz, Wren, Tim Hudson, David Ross, Kris Medlen, third-base coach Chino Cadahia and former Braves Brian Jordan and Brad Clontz.

ATLANTA BRAVES

Peter Moylan (L) and Chipper Jones tape together sets of crutches that will be used for years in Haiti due to the large number of amputees, according to A.B. Short, CEO of MedShare.



ATLANTA BRAVES

The Braves' contingent, led by David Ross (L) and former reliever Brad Clontz (R) takes a tour of the MedShare Warehouse before starting work.

"We've seen a lot of the images on the news," Hudson said. "It's heart-wrenching. It's great to be able to come out and lend a helping hand. It seems like just a little drop in the bucket for what they need. But every little bit helps."

The Braves Foundation announced that they are sponsoring the shipment of one of the 40-foot containers, which will include 13,000 pounds of supplies. The cost to send one container is $22,000, and fans can assist raising these funds by making monetary donations at braves.com/haitirelief. The Braves will match every donation.

In addition, the Braves announced that fans could also participate in an online auction, also at braves.com/haitirelief through Feb. 14. All of the proceeds went to MedShare in support of the Haiti relief efforts.

"We're doing this with a generous heart and a great spirit, and we're doing all that we can to help as much as we can," Schuerholz said. "It's really heartwarming to see all of these guys and everybody working hard to do what we can to help the poor people in Haiti."

Before the Braves began assembling the various medical supplies, A.B. Short, the CEO and co-founder of MedShare, provided the group an explanation about how the supplies would be shipped to Haiti.

In addition, Short was able to provide a first-hand account of the devastation that he saw during a 10-day stay amid the rubble left by the earthquake.

"Having been on the ground, I will tell you the needs for crutches and walkers and wheelchairs is going to be tremendous for the next number of months and years there, because of the number of amputees that we're seeing," Short said. "What you see on the news is reality. It's bigger than what you see on the little TV screen. It's overwhelming."

During their two-week Caravan, which ran through Feb. 13, the Braves furthered their Haiti relief efforts by setting up an American Red Cross monetary donation center at each of the Academy Sports + Outdoors locations that they visited.

Former Braves executive Dayton Moore, now GM of the Kansas City Royals, has stocked his front office and his roster with former Braves employees and players.

CHRIS VELASCO/KANSAS CITY ROYALS

REASONABLE FACSIMILE

Former Assistant GM Dayton Moore Carving Royals From Schuerholz's Blueprint

BY BILL BALLEW

IF IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY, then the Kansas City Royals think very highly of the Atlanta Braves. In fact, Dayton Moore, who left Atlanta nearly four years ago to become general manager of the Royals, has assembled a veritable mini-Braves franchise on the Missouri/Kansas border where interstates 29, 35 and 70 converge.

Moore, 42, makes no bones about the fact that he believes the best way to lead the Royals back to the top of the American League, where they resided throughout the latter half of the 1970s and most of the 1980s under the direction of Braves president and former GM John Schuerholz, is with a little help from his friends. Make that a lot of help from his friends, many of whom served significant roles with Atlanta when the Braves put together a record 14 straight division titles.

In addition to Moore, the Royals' front office has 13 employees who were once with the Braves. Another 13 former members of the Atlanta organization serve in scouting or coaching capacities in the Kansas City farm system. Seven players with ties to the Braves, including catcher Brayan Pena and pitchers Roman Colon, Kyle Davies and Anthony Lerew, entered spring training on the Kansas City 40-man roster. At least another seven former Atlanta minor leaguers are now with the Royals organization, including former top prospect Wilson Betemit.

"I've always tried to pattern a lot of what we've done after John and his model of doing things," Moore said. "His methods have led to success and consistent performance. It's the only way I know how to do things, because it's the way I was raised in the game by John, as well as (Braves Hall of Fame scout and executive) Paul Snyder and Bobby Cox. I am unwavering with that way, because I know it works."

Moore has heard the jokes and the ridicule from the local and national media regarding the "Kansas City Braves." But this is in no way a repeat of the 1950s Kansas City A's that made so many lopsided trades with the Yankees that they were facetiously referred to as a farm team of the Bronx Bombers. Moore, in fact, has made only two minor deals with Atlanta, the last coming on July 31, 2007, when the Royals obtained Davies for reliever Octavio Dotel.

"Success never comes as fast as you want it to," Moore said. "That's our nature as human beings, to want instant gratification. But I am pleased with the work we're doing, particularly in scouting and player development, both of which have improved a great deal over the past three years. I'm excited about the programs we have in place, and we'll keep trying to move in the right direction."

Moore thought he had an understanding of what his job would

entail when he accepted the Royals' offer to be their GM on May 30, 2006. Not only had he worked closely with Schuerholz for 12 years, but he also received a virtual baseball MBA with the Braves, serving as a scouting supervisor, director of player personnel, director of international scouting and finally assistant general manager.

Yet for all his experience, Moore realized immediately that nothing can groom someone for the challenges, choices and criticisms a GM faces on a daily basis.

"There's no way to prepare to be a general manager until you actually get in that chair and start making those decisions," Moore said. "I spend a lot of my time making sure that we are creating and maintaining a great work environment. And I'm fortunate to be around a lot of great people who have the ability and experience to slow things down and are committed to creating something special."

Moore was not naïve enough to believe the task would be painless. And since he took control of the team midway through the 2006 season, the Royals have not turned the corner in terms of wins and losses. In fact, Kansas City has only one winning record - a modest 83-79 mark in 2003 - in the last 16 years.

Progress, however, is taking place, even if it's being measured with baby steps.

Like seeds in the process of working their way to the surface, the Royals have experienced a rebirth in player development by graduating players through the lower reaches of the minor leagues. The overall talent has increased with the help of several solid drafts and a renewed dedication to the international market. The Glass family, which owns the team, has allowed Moore to add 17 new employees to scouting, development and leadership positions.

"Until we can get the majority of players on our major league roster representing Royals homegrown talent, there's going to be inconsistencies and problems," Moore said. "We're not going to rush these guys. We're going to be patient. But at the same time, you have to put a product on the field that is competitive and one the fans want to support. That's the difficult part, especially when you have a $65 million payroll."

With depth just beginning to form in the organization, Moore and his staff have had to fill numerous gaps. In a handful of cases, they have gone with known commodities, i.e., former members of the Atlanta farm system.

With three-plus seasons under his belt, Moore believes a foundation has been established with both the front office and field staffs. The greatest challenge involves the major league roster, which had only five homegrown products prior to Sept. 1, 2009.

THE KANSAS CITY BRAVES

FRONT OFFICE

Name	Current @ Kansas City	Last @ Atlanta
Dayton Moore	Sr. VP-Baseball Ops/GM	Assistant GM
Dean Taylor	VP Baseball Ops/Assistant GM	Assistant GM
Mike Arbuckle	Sr. Advisor to GM/ Scouting & Player Develop.	National Cross-Checker
J.J. Picollo	Assistant GM/Player Develop.	Dir. Minor League Ops
Lonnie Goldberg	Dir. Baseball Ops	National Scouting Supervisor
Donnie Williams	Special Advisor to GM	Major League Scout
Rene Francisco	Special Assistant to GM/ International Ops	Dir. International Scouting
Ned Yost	Special Advisor to Baseball Ops	Third-base Coach
Gene Watson	Coordinator-Professional Scouting	Professional Scout
Linda Smith	Manager-Scouting Ops	Administrative Coordinator-Baseball Ops
Emily Penning	Administrative Assistant-Baseball Ops	Human Resources Coordinator
Jeff Blum	Physical Therapist	Minor League Rehab Coordinator
Jim Wong	Dir.-Baseball Administration	Group Sales Manager - Richmond
Nick Leto	Manager-Arizona Ops	Minor League Equipment Manager
Matt Price	Pro Scout	Assistant Dir. Player Development
Junior Vizcaino	National Supervisor	Area Supervisor
Gregg Kilby	SE Regional Supervisor	Area Scout - Florida
John Ramey	Area Scout - Southern California	Area Scout - Southern California
Jack Maloof	Special Assistant Player Develop.	Minor League Hitting Coordinator
Bill Fischer	Pitching Coordinator	Sr. Minor League Pitching Coordinator
Doug Henry	Roving Pitching Coach	Rome Pitching Coach
Quilvio Veras	Bunting & Baserunning Coordinator	Minor League Player
Onil Joseph	Outfield Coach - Dominican Republic	Minor League Player
Tommy Gregg	OF Coordinator/Omaha Hitting Coach	Myrtle Beach Hitting Coach
Jerry Nyman	Class A Pitching Coach	Minor League Pitching Coach
Tony Medina	Trainer/ Latin American Training Coordinator	Trainer-Spring Training & GCL
Shawn Hicks	Strength & Conditioning Coach-Arizona Rookie team	Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach

40-MAN ROSTER

*Roman Colon (RHP)
Juan Cruz (RHP)
*Kyle Davies (RHP)
Kyle Farnsworth (RHP)
*Anthony Lerew (RHP)
*Edgar Osuna (LHP)
* Brayan Pena (C)

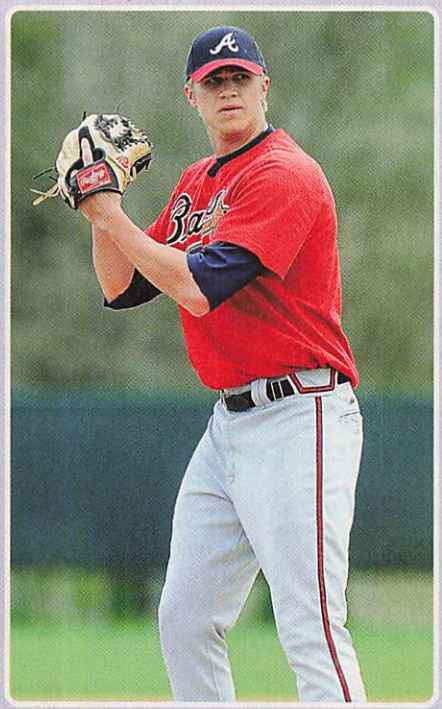
MINOR LEAGUERS

*Wilson Betemit (INF)
*Jairo Cuevas (RHP)
*Ernesto Mejia (1B)
*Jamie Romak (OF)
*Carlos Sencion (LHP)
*Scott Thorman (1B)
*Kelvin Villa (LHP)

* Signed first pro contract with Atlanta

BY BILL BALLEW

STRENGTH, DEPTH OF PITCHING WILL BE FEATURED IN THE SPRING



PHOTOS: TOM PRIDDY

Todd Redmond (L), who was the Southern League Pitcher of the Year in 2008 after the Braves acquired him from Pittsburgh for Tyler Yates, and Kyle Cofield are two highly regarded righthanders that are in the mix of starting pitchers competing for jobs in the Tripe-A Gwinnett rotation.

A LOVE OF COMPETITION is one of the driving forces possessed by most pitchers in professional baseball. Those Braves minor league pitchers who thrive in such situations should have their fill in spring training, where no fewer than 25 starters are vying for jobs in the rotations of Atlanta's four full-season farm clubs.

"It's a great situation to have that many pitchers, all of whom can be considered legitimate prospects, competing for a chance to prove themselves," said Kurt Kemp, the Braves' director of player development. "Thanks to the great job our scouting and coaching staffs have done over the past few years, we have a tremendous amount of depth. It's truly a situation where the cream will have a chance to rise to the top."

There will be a trickle-down effect, based primarily on decisions made by Bobby Cox with the major league roster and any potential trades general manager Frank Wren might make prior to Opening Day. Nevertheless, Triple-A Gwinnett is likely to have a combination of righthanders Todd Redmond, Kyle Cofield and Ryne Reynoso and lefthanders Jo-Jo Reyes, Jonny Venters and Scott Diamond.

While Reyes has bounced between the big leagues and Triple-A the past three years, Redmond is coming off a strong full season in the International League. Cofield, Diamond and Reynoso have been somewhat unheralded as prospects, but all three made major strides last year working with Double-A pitching coach Marty Reed.

Diamond or Cofield could return to Mississippi, at least to open the season, particularly if the latter continues to struggle with control. Other contenders for spots with the M-Braves include lefties Richard Sullivan, Jose Ortegano and Cole Rohrbough and righties Erik Cordier and Jacob Thompson.

Ortegano had success during the last two months of 2009 in the Southern League, going 5-2 with a 2.83 ERA in eight starts. Rohrbough battled consistency issues last season at advanced Class A Myrtle Beach after an injury-riddled 2008 but has the ability to be a top prospect. Thompson and Sullivan are former college pitchers who improved last summer and earned promotions in Class A.

Based on the depth at Myrtle Beach last year, both the starting and relief pitching should be a strength of the M-Braves this season. One scout noted in late 2009 that the Pelicans had "10 or 11 legitimate prospects" on their staff. Reed, meanwhile, is a realist when it comes to evaluating talent in the upper reaches of the minor leagues.

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"We'll have to wait and see, because many times you'll have guys who were prospects in A ball but are no longer prospects in Double-A, due to the increase in the quality of competition," Reed said. "Once a player gets to Double-A, the players he is playing against are much more polished. The game is also run completely different than it is at the lower levels.

"There are not as many free swingers, and managers will manage to win the game more often than in A ball. The pitchers may have raw talent, but they have to put it all together. I've seen plenty of guys with great arms who never get over the hump at the Double-A level because of the inability to make adjustments against better quality hitters."

Scouts should be impressed with the quantity of pitchers at Myrtle Beach again in 2010 with the expected arrival of righthanders Zeke Spruill, J.J. Hoover and Paul Clemens, all products of the Braves' impressive 2008 draft class. Lefthander Brett DeVall, the first draft pick from 2008 who was limited to 10 starts at Class A Rome last season due to lingering discomfort in his forearm and elbow, could also make the jump if he pitches as well this spring as he did during the fall Instructional League. Expectations are also high for Randall Delgado, who put together a torrid second half last season to emerge as one of the top prospects in the organization.

Chances are two other pitchers who have seen minimal activity in pro ball could find jobs on one of the top three rungs of the Atlanta organizational ladder. Lefthander Mike Minor and righthander David Hale were drafted first and second by the Braves in 2009 out of Vanderbilt and Princeton, respectively. With their polish and overall feel for pitching, both appear ready to make significant jumps this year.

"Both of those guys have shown the ability to pitch and pitch competitively in the short time they've been in the organization," Kemp said. "As an organization, you don't want to push them too hard, but I believe they will show us in Florida where they need to start the season."

The fiercest competition may be found at the lowest full-season rung. The Rome rotation will have as many as a dozen pitchers battling for spots, led by top prospects Julio Teheran and Arodys Vizcaino. Teheran was deemed the top prospect in the Appalachian League last year prior to making seven late-season starts with Rome. Vizcaino arrives from the Yankees organiza-

IMPROVED MECHANICS IS KEY TO MY GROWTH

I FELT I MADE A LOT of good strides last season. I gave up too many hits, and that frustrated me throughout the year.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Righthander J.J. Hoover was Atlanta's 10th-round draft pick in 2008 out of Calhoun Community College in Alabama. The Pennsylvania native turned down a scholarship to West Virginia to sign with the Braves. In 2009, his first full season of pro ball, Hoover led the Braves' organization with 150 strikeouts while posting a 7-6 record and a 3.35 ERA at Class A Rome.

I was working without my slider for most of the season, because the Braves wanted me to get the feel for my changeup and curveball. That hampered me a little bit, because it requires a completely different mental approach to try to get a hitter out without an "out" pitch. But I was able to battle through it and improve those secondary pitches, and overall it was a good year.

I pitched well after joining the rotation in May. A lot of it has to do with getting in the routine of pitching every fifth day and knowing what to expect. I don't mind relieving, because you can go out there and blow it out for two or three innings. But as a starter, you can get more comfortable with the routine.

Because of that, I was able to keep my walks down, which I was real happy about. I'd never been a real pinpoint type of pitcher, but I felt I had good command of the strike zone last year, and that kept my strikeout totals higher than I expected.

I've been hitting the weight room this off-season, trying to get in the best shape possible. I started throwing off the mound in mid-January in order to get the feel for my pitches back. Right away I felt I had a tighter spin on my curveball and a better feel for my changeup.

> "YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO LAY IT ALL OUT ON THE FIELD. I LIKE BEING THAT WORKHORSE GUY ON THE STAFF."

This year in spring training, I feel I'll have more confidence because I know what to expect. We have a new pitching coordinator (Dave Wallace), so that might be a little different, but overall I know what needs to be done.

I'm scheduled to start the year in Myrtle Beach, but maybe with a good showing in spring training, I can jump to Mississippi. I'm a little bit older (22), and I'm hoping I'll get the chance to challenge myself at the higher level at some point this season. I've heard that Double-A is really where you start to separate the players, and I'm looking forward to that aspect.

When I signed with the Braves, I had absolutely no idea what professional baseball would entail. I was excited about it, but being from the Northeast and from a small school, I was pretty nervous. Once I got used to the system, I think I adapted pretty well, and I feel good about the progress I've been making.

My dad, Jim Hoover, has always been my pitching coach, and he knows exactly what makes me tick when it comes to pitching. I have a strong lower body, and my dad has always worked with me to be a workhorse type of pitcher.

Some people get caught up in pitch counts, but I think you have to be strong and battle through that and get after it in the game. As a starter, you're out there only once every five days, and you have to be able to lay it all out on the field. I like being that workhorse guy on the staff.

The biggest thing I've learned during my time so far in pro ball is to focus on what my body is doing every time I pick up a ball, whether it's on the mound or in the bullpen or during a side session. The coaches have emphasized the need to try to hit a spot every time I throw the ball. That's really clicked and helped me with my body control and my mechanics, which is the reason I believe I'm making the progress I am.

tion as part of the deal that sent Javier Vazquez to New York in December. Other leading candidates include righthanders Robinson Lopez and Cory Rasmus and southpaws Brett Oberholtzer, Tyler Stovall, Chris Masters and Matthew Crim.

"They say you can never have too much pitching, and time has proven that to be true," Kemp said. "So many things can factor into a pitcher's career. We'll see how it all shakes out, but it definitely is a nice situation to have."

NEW DOUBLE-A COACH

The continuity of coaches in the farm system is one of the major reasons the Braves have been among the most prolific teams in producing homegrown talent over the past two decades. Among the four full-season teams in the farm system, the lone newcomer this year is Mississippi hitting coach Garey Ingram, and even he is somewhat of a familiar face.

Ingram spent seven seasons as a hitting coach in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization. During that stint he worked alongside Atlanta pitching coach Roger McDowell when both were on the Class A South Georgia staff in 2003. Ingram also got to know Mississippi pitching coach Marty Reed and new minor league pitching coordinator Dave Wallace well when they worked for the Dodgers.

"Garey is going to be a perfect fit for this organization," Reed said. "I don't think they could have hired a better guy. He's a tremendous person, and he's a tremendous worker. The kids are really going to like him. He's one of those guys who gives everything he has to the organization, and I'm really looking forward to working with him this season."

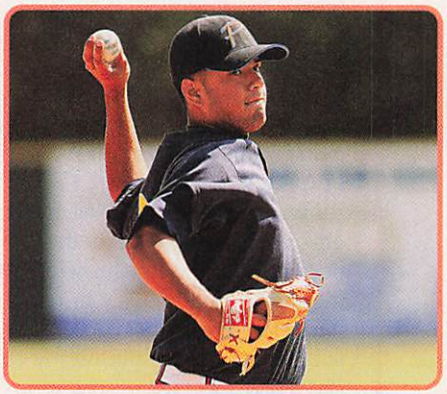
The former infielder/outfielder from Columbus, Ga., was drafted by the Dodgers in the 44th round in 1989 out of Middle Georgia Junior College and spent 14 seasons playing professionally. His tenure included parts of three seasons in the major leagues with Los Angeles, during which he batted .261 in 82 games.

After his playing career came to a close, Ingram served as batting coach in the Gulf Coast League in 2002, the South Atlantic League from 2003-06, and the Midwest League in 2007-08, before spending 2009 at Connecticut, which was the Double-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. When Braves officials asked during the off-season if he might be interested in an opportunity with the organization, the Georgia native was all ears.

"I'm so excited to be with the Braves, especially coming from the Columbus area of Georgia," Ingram said. "It's a little bit of a learning phase for me, but I've spoken a lot with our hitting coordinator, Leon Roberts, and I feel I have some ideas I can contribute to help these young men make the necessary adjustments in order to advance in their careers."

Ingram is well aware of how close the M-Brave players are to the major leagues. In 1994, he received his first call to the game's top level while playing at Double-A San Antonio. That thrill was followed quickly by one of the highlights of his career, on May 19, 1994, when he became the 67th player in major league history to hit a home run in his first plate appearance.

"I still get chills when I think about that,"



TOM PRIDDY

Jose Ortegano likely will open the season at Mississippi, where he was 5-2 with a 2.84 ERA in his last eight starts of '09 to greatly increase his stock as a prospect.

Ingram said. "I even got the ball I hit. Orel Hershiser was in the bullpen, and he traded three or four gloves to get the ball from the fan who caught it. It feels like it was yesterday. And in some ways, I feel that's one of the things I try to bring to a club. I know what these guys are going through while they're trying to work their way to the top. I think I relate to them pretty well. And I've found out that if you can get a player to trust you, the entire process is going to be a lot more productive for everyone involved."

GWINNETT'S NEW GM

After a three-month search, the Braves hired North Johnson as general manager of the Gwinnett Braves. Johnson, who spent the past three years as the GM at Myrtle Beach, replaces Bruce Baldwin, who stepped down at the end of the 2009 season but remains with the organization as a minor league consultant.

"North has a proven track record of success everywhere he's been, and we think he is the perfect fit for the Gwinnett Braves," said Mike Plant, the Braves' executive vice president of business operations.

A 32-year veteran of the minor leagues, Johnson joined the Pelicans in September 2006 and led the franchise to its two best single-season attendance marks, in 2008 and 2009. Johnson oversaw numerous improvements and additions totaling $2.5 million at BB&T Coastal Field, as well as the hosting of the 2008 Carolina-California League All-Star Game, which will return to Myrtle Beach in 2010. He also helped orchestrate increased marketing and sales presences on the Grand Strand and upgraded the in-game entertainment.

Prior to his arrival in Myrtle Beach, Johnson spent 17 years as president and general manager of the Carolina League's Kinston Indians and three seasons, from 2004-06, as GM of the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes of the California League.

"It was an extremely difficult decision for me and my family, but I felt going to Gwinnett will offer me an amazing opportunity to advance my career," Johnson said. "It was one that was impossible to turn down."

While Johnson is now focusing on creating a niche for minor league baseball in the northern suburbs of Atlanta, the Pelicans took their search for a GM to a national level. The team had yet to announce the hiring of a new GM through the first week of February. That's understandable, based on the recent events involving the Myrtle Beach franchise owners, the Greenberg Sports Group. In late January, the group, headed by Pennsylvania lawyer Chuck Greenberg and Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan, reached an agreement to purchase the Texas Rangers from Tom Hicks, pending approval from Major League Baseball. In addition to the Pelicans, GSG owns the State College Spikes in the New York-Penn League.

ORGANIZATIONAL NOTES

* The Myrtle Beach Pelicans will host their FanFest at BB&T Coastal Field on Saturday, Mar. 6, from 2-5 p.m. The FanFest will feature national anthem singer tryouts, an afternoon-long edition of catch on the field, ballpark tours, and various other events. Fans can enjoy discounted food and drink specials at the concession stands, including $1 draft beers and hot dogs to accompany free popcorn and soda.

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April 2005	Starting Rotation
May 2005	Andruw Jones
June 2005	Tim Hudson
July 2005	Kyle Davies
August 2005	Johnson & Langerhans
September 2005	Jeff Francoeur
October 2005	Andruw Jones
November 2005	Brian McCann
December 2005	Andruw Jones
January 2006	Edgar Renteria
February 2006	Niekro, Aaron, Lemaster
March 2006	LaRoche Family
April 2006	Andruw, Smoltz, Chipper
May 2006	Chris Reitsma
June 2006	Francoeur's Slam
July 2006	Edgar Renteria
August 2006	Brian McCann
September 2006	Bob Wickman
October 2006	John Smoltz
November 2006	Bobby Cox

December 2006	Jeff Francoeur
January 2007	Rafael Soriano
February 2007	Spring Training
March 2007	Mike Gonzalez
April 2007	Andruw Jones (Sold Out)
May 2007	Hubbard & Johnson (Sold Out)
June 2007	John Smoltz
July 2007	Diaz & Harris
August 2007	Edgar Renteria
September 2007	Mark Teixeira
October 2007	Jeff Francoeur
November 2007	Chipper Jones
December 2007	John Smoltz
January 2008	Tom Glavine
February 2008	Tim Hudson
March 2008	Mark Kotsay
April 2008	Teixeira & Jones
May 2008	Brian McCann
June 2008	Jair Jurrjens

July 2008	Chipper Jones
August 2008	McCann & Jones
September 2008	Skip Caray
October 2008	Brian McCann
November 2008	Chipper Jones
December 2008	Pete Van Wieren
January 2009	Frank Wren
February 2009	Hank Aaron
March 2009	Derek Lowe
April 2009	Vazquez, Lowe & Kawakami
May 2009	Bobby Cox & Chipper Jones
June 2009	Jeff Francoeur
July 2009	Nate McLouth
August 2009	Tommy Hanson
September 2009	Martin Prado
October 2009	Yunel Escobar
November 2009	Peter Moylan
December 2009	Jason Heyward
January 2010	Billy Wagner
February 2010	Jair Jurrjens

ATLANTA ROSTER

PITCHERS (24)

No.	Name	B-T	HT	WT	Birthdate	2009 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ML Serv	Contract
56	ABREU, JUAN	R-R	6-0	170	4/8/85	Northwest Arkansas	2-2	5.75	16	0	0	4	20.1	19	15	13	22	25	0.000	2010
46	ACOSTA, MANNY	S-R	6-4	170	5/1/81	Gwinnett	1-3	2.63	18	0	0	2	27.1	21	8	8	13	25	2.007	2010
						ATLANTA	1-1	4.34	36	0	0	0	37.1	45	19	19	19	32		
51	CHAVEZ, JESSE	R-R	6-2	170	8/21/83	PITTSBURGH	1-4	4.01	73	0	0	0	67.1	69	33	30	22	47	1.033	2010
64	COFIELD, KYLE	R-R	6-5	190	1/23/87	Mississippi	10-5	3.90	26	24	1	0	140.2	122	74	61	89	87	0.000	2010
38	DUNN, MIKE	L-L	6-1	195	5/23/85	Trenton	3-3	3.71	26	0	0	2	53.1	41	23	22	32	76	0.034	2010
						Scranton Wilkes-Barre	1-0	2.25	12	0	0	0	20.0	17	5	5	14	23		
						NEW YORK (AL)	0-0	6.75	4	0	0	0	4.0	3	3	3	5	5		
48	HANSON, TOMMY	R-R	6-6	220	8/28/86	Myrtle Beach	3-1	0.90	7	7	0	0	40.0	15	6	4	11	49	0.120	2010
						Mississippi	8-4	3.03	18	18	1	0	98.0	70	39	33	41	114		
						ATLANTA	11-4	2.89	21	21	0	0	127.2	105	42	41	46	116		
15	HUDSON, TIM	R-R	6-1	170	7/14/75	Myrtle Beach*	0-1	5.79	2	2	0	0	4.2	5	3	3	2	3	10.119	2012*
						Gwinnett*	1-0	3.38	4	4	0	0	18.2	24	7	7	2	11		
						ATLANTA	2-1	3.61	7	7	0	0	42.1	49	17	17	13	30		
63	HYDE, LEE	R-L	6-2	185	2/14/85	GCL Braves*	0-0	3.00	2	0	0	0	3.0	0	1	1	2	4	0.000	2010
						Myrtle Beach	3-1	1.21	17	0	0	1	22.1	13	4	3	9	28		
						Mississippi	2-1	4.35	7	0	0	1	10.1	9	5	5	4	13		
49	JURRJENS, JAIR	R-R	6-1	200	1/29/86	ATLANTA	14-10	2.60	34	34	0	0	215.0	186	71	62	75	152	2.047	2010
11	KAWAKAMI, KENSHIN	R-R	6-0	200	6/22/75	ATLANTA	7-12	3.86	32	25	0	1	156.1	153	73	67	57	105	1.000	2011
32	LOWE, DEREK	R-R	6-6	230	6/1/73	ATLANTA	15-10	4.67	34	34	0	0	194.2	232	109	101	63	111	12.100	2012
65	LYMAN, JEFF	R-R	6-3	225	1/14/87	Mississippi	5-7	3.12	33	8	0	2	86.2	70	36	30	43	76	0.000	2010
						Gwinnett	0-2	4.91	5	2	0	0	11.0	11	6	6	10	11		
62	MAREK, STEPHEN	R-R	6-2	240	9/3/83	Mississippi	3-3	5.72	38	0	0	2	39.1	40	31	25	29	31	0.000	2010
						Gwinnett	0-1	7.94	6	0	0	0	5.2	7	5	5	7	4		
54	MEDLEN, KRIS	S-R	5-10	190	10/7/85	Gwinnett	5-0	1.19	8	6	0	0	37.2	20	5	5	10	44	0.137	2010
						ATLANTA	3-5	4.26	37	4	0	0	67.2	65	34	32	30	72		
58	MOYLAN, PETER	R-R	6-2	200	12/2/78	ATLANTA	6-2	2.84	87	0	0	0	73.0	665	29	23	35	61	3.061	2010
34	O'FLAHERTY, ERIC	L-L	6-2	220	2/5/85	ATLANTA	2-1	3.04	78	0	0	0	56.1	52	23	19	18	39	2.062	2010
67	ORTEGANO, JOSE	L-L	6-1	145	8/5/87	Myrtle Beach	4-5	3.49	21	12	0	0	69.2	56	30	27	19	59	0.000	2010
						Mississippi	5-2	2.83	8	8	1	0	47.2	46	19	15	15	42		
59	PARR, JAMES	R-R	6-1	185	2/27/86	Gwinnett	1-1	5.40	7	6	0	0	30.0	34	18	18	5	20	0.063	2010
						ATLANTA	0-0	5.79	8	0	0	0	14.0	17	9	9	5	12		
						GCL Braves*	0-0	0.00	3	3	0	0	6.0	0	1	0	1	9		
61	REDMOND, TODD	R-R	6-3	213	5/17/85	Gwinnett	9-6	4.41	27	24	0	0	145.0	152	85	71	47	106	0.000	2010
37	REYES, JO-JO	L-L	6-2	230	11/20/84	Gwinnett	4-2	2.86	15	14	0	0	66.0	68	23	21	24	32	1.132	2010
						ATLANTA	0-2	7.00	6	5	0	0	27.0	27	25	21	13	21		
40	SAITO, TAKASHI	R-R	6-2	214	2/14/70	BOSTON	3-3	2.43	56	0	0	2	55.2	50	16	15	25	52	4.000	2010
50	VALDEZ, LUIS	R-R	6-2	205	5/5/84	Gwinnett	5-4	3.28	58	0	0	27	71.1	66	37	26	19	75	0.017	2010
						ATLANTA	0-1	3.38	3	0	0	0	2.2	3	1	1	2	0		
68	VENTERS, JONNY	L-L	6-3	195	3/20/85	Mississippi	4-4	2.76	12	12	1	0	65.1	60	24	20	35	40	0.000	2010
						Gwinnett	4-7	5.62	17	17	0	0	91.1	103	64	57	42	58		
13	WAGNER, BILLY	L-L	5-11	203	7/25/71	GCL Mets*	0-0	0.00	1	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13.139	2010
						St. Lucie*	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	0	5.0	0	0	0	0	8		
						NEW YORK (NL)	0-0	0.00	5	0	0	0	2.0	3	0	0	1	4		
						BOSTON	1-1	1.98	2	0	0	0	13.2	8	5	3	7	22		

CATCHERS (3)

No.	Name	B-T	HT	WT	Birthdate	2009 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	ML Serv	Contract
16	McCANN, BRIAN	L-R	6-3	230	2/20/84	Myrtle Beach*	.333	2	6	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	4.117	2012
						Gwinnett*	.333	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0		
						ATLANTA	.281	138	488	63	137	35	1	21	94	49	83	4		
8	ROSS, DAVID	R-R	6-2	238	3/19/77	Rome*	.500	2	6	1	3	0	0	1	4	1	1	0	7.001	2010
						ATLANTA	.273	54	128	18	35	9	0	7	20	21	39	0		
5	SAMMONS, CLINT	R-R	6-0	200	5/15/83	Gwinnett	.214	80	299	34	64	12	0	9	37	20	61	7	0.143	2010
						ATLANTA	.182	6	11	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	0		

INFIELDERS (8)

No.	Name	B-T	HT	WT	Birthdate	2009 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	ML Serv	Contract
26	CONRAD, BROOKS	S-R	5-11	190	1/16/80	Gwinnett	.269	110	398	66	107	25	0	12	64	53	108	13	0.078	2010
						Atlanta	.204	30	54	7	11	1	2	2	8	3	14	0		
19	ESCOBAR, YUNEL	R-R	6-2	200	11/2/82	ATLANTA	.299	141	528	89	158	26	2	14	76	57	62	5	2.121	2010
25	GLAUS, TROY	R-R	6-5	240	8/3/76	Palm Beach*	.200	6	25	2	5	1	0	0	4	1	6	0	11.060	2010
						Springfield*	.222	3	9	1	2	0	0	0	2	3	1	0		
						Memphis*	.216	15	51	10	11	0	0	3	8	12	17	1		
						ST. LOUIS	.172	14	29	2	5	2	0	0	2	3	8	0		
27	HERNANDEZ, DIORY	R-R	6-0	185	4/8/84	Gwinnett	.319	54	204	18	65	16	1	1	32	21	34	8	0.083	2010
						ATLANTA	.141	33	85	6	12	3	0	1	6	6	22	0		
20	HINSKE, ERIC	L-R	6-1	235	8/5/77	PITTSBURGH	.255	54	106	18	27	9	0	1	11	17	27	0	8.000	2010
						NEW YORK (AL)	.226	39	84	13	19	3	0	7	14	10	25	1		
4	INFANTE, OMAR	R-R	6-0	180	12/26/81	ATLANTA	.305	70	203	24	62	9	1	2	27	19	28	2	6.120	2010
						Rome*	.294	5	17	1	5	0	0	0	0	3	2	1		
						Gwinnett*	.333	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0		
10	JONES, CHIPPER	S-R	6-4	210	4/24/72	ATLANTA	.264	143	488	80	129	23	2	18	71	101	89	4	16.024	2012
14	PRADO, MARTIN	R-R	6-1	190	10/27/83	ATLANTA	.307	128	450	64	138	38	0	11	49	36	59	1	2.105	2010

OUTFIELDERS (5)

No.	Name	B-T	HT	WT	Birthdate	2009 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	ML Serv	Contract
1	BLANCO, GREGOR	L-L	5-11	170	12/24/83	Gwinnett	.228	90	333	54	76	9	1	2	30	50	70	10	1.041	2010
						ATLANTA	.186	24	43	5	8	0	1	0	1	4	9	2		
53	CABRERA, MELKY	S-L	5-11	200	8/11/84	NEW YORK (AL)	.274	154	485	66	133	28	1	13	68	43	59	10	3.148	2010
23	DIAZ, MATT	R-R	6-1	215	3/3/78	ATLANTA	.313	125	371	56	116	18	4	13	58	35	90	12	4.157	2010
24	McLOUTH, NATE	L-R	5-11	180	10/28/81	PITTSBURGH	.256	45	168	27	43	7	1	9	34	21	29	7	4.056	2012
						ATLANTA	.257	84	339	59	87	20	1	11	36	47	70	12		
						Mississippi*	.000	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		
						Rome*	.000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
2	SCHAFER, JORDAN	L-L	6-1	200	9/4/86	ATLANTA	.204	50	167	18	34	8	0	2	8	27	63	2	0.121	2010
						Gwinnett	.229	9	35	6	8	0	0	2	3	2	10	3		

NON-ROSTER INVITEES

PITCHERS (6)

No.	Name	B-T	HT	WT	Birthdate	2009 Club	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ML Serv	Contract
74	ERIC CORDIER	R-R	6-4	230	2/25/86	Myrtle Beach	7-8	3.87	25	25	1	0	121.0	115	62	52	74	88	0.000	2010
33	GOMEZ, MARIANO	L-L	6-6	240	9/12/82	Gwinnett	8-4	1.99	47	0	0	8	72.1	51	18	16	29	36	0.000	2010
72	KIMBREL, CRAIG	R-R	5-11	205	5/28/88	Rome	0-0	0.90	16	0	0	10	20.0	9	2	2	6	38	0.000	2010
						Myrtle Beach	0-2	5.47	19	0	0	2	26.1	18	19	16	28	45		
						Mississippi	2-1	0.77	12	0	0	6	11.2	3	1	1	7	17		
						Gwinnett	0-0	0.00	2	0	0	0	2.0	0	0	0	4	3		
73	MINOR, MIKE	R-L	6-3	200	12/26/87	Rome	0-1	0.64	4	4	0	0	14.0	10	1	1	0	17	0.000	2010
36	PROCTOR, SCOTT	R-R	6-0	190	1/2/??	Injured -- Did Not Play														
--	RESOP, CHRIS	R-R	6-3	215	11/4/82	Hanshin	1-1	5.21	12	0	0	0	19.0	20	11	11	6	21	1.099	2010

CATCHERS (4)

No.	Name	B-T	HT	WT	Birthdate	2009 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	ML Serv	Contract
22	BOSCAN, J.C.	R-R	6-2	215	12/26/79	Gwinnett	.250	13	44	5	11	4	0	0	2	2	9	0	0.000	2010
						Mississippi	.260	73	250	20	65	12	0	0	30	33	50	2		
57	MERCADO, ORLANDO	R-R	5-9	210	3/13/85	Reno	.289	17	45	6	13	2	0	0	6	9	2	0	0.000	2010
						Mobile	.294	71	238	26	70	14	1	2	36	33	25	0		
75	SUCRE, JESUS	R-R	6-0	200	4/30/88	Rome	.325	45	169	14	55	15	0	1	18	6	17	1	0.000	2010
						Myrtle Beach	.259	53	197	17	51	8	1	5	20	8	33	3		
76	SCHLEHUBER, BRAEDEN	R-R	6-3	190	1/7/88	Rome	.199	100	351	41	70	23	0	5	37	18	59	5	0.000	2010

INFIELDERS (3)

No.	Name	B-T	HT	WT	Birthdate	2009 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	ML Serv	Contract
70	FREEMAN, FREDDIE	L-R	6-5	220	9/12/89	Myrtle Beach	.302	70	255	43	77	19	0	6	34	26	41	1	0.000	2010
						Mississippi	.248	41	149	15	37	8	0	2	24	11	19	0		
69	HICKS, BRANDON	R-R	6-2	200	9/14/85	Mississippi	.237	128	464	63	110	25	4	10	48	53	131	17	0.000	2010
7	THURSTON, JOE	L-R	5-11	210	9/29/79	ST. LOUIS	.225	124	267	27	60	17	4	1	25	33	56	4	1.168	2010

OUTFIELDERS (5)

No.	Name	B-T	HT	WT	Birthdate	2009 Club	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	ML Serv	Contract
18	CLEVLEN, BRENT	R-R	6-2	190	10/27/83	Toledo	.265	128	479	61	127	26	5	16	64	42	139	10	0.093	2010
71	HEYWARD, JASON	L-L	6-4	220	8/9/89	Myrtle Beach	.296	49	189	34	56	12	0	10	31	21	30	4	0.000	2010
						Mississippi	.352	47	162	32	57	13	4	7	30	28	19	5		
						Gwinnett	.364	3	11	3	4	0	0	0	2	2	2	1		
77	JOHNSON, CODY	L-R	6-4	195	8/18/88	Myrtle Beach	.242	122	422	59	102	18	1	32	84	64	171	10	0.000	2010
						Mississippi	.182	6	22	2	4	0	0	0	3	3	9	1		
30	JONES, MITCH	R-R	6-0	215	10/15/??	LOS ANGELES (NL)	.308	8	13	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	0.023	2010
						Albuquerque	.297	108	387	72	115	26	3	35	103	40	102	9		
78	YOUNG, MATT	L-R	5-9	175	10/3/82	Mississippi	.289	130	460	81	133	22	10	4	33	94	59	42	0.000	2010
						Gwinnett	.192	7	26	6	5	1	0	1	3	3	5	1		

Manager: Bobby Cox (6) **Coaches:** Chino Cadahia (52), Glenn Hubbard (17), Roger McDowell (45), Terry Pendleton (9), Eddie Perez (12), Brian Snitker (43)

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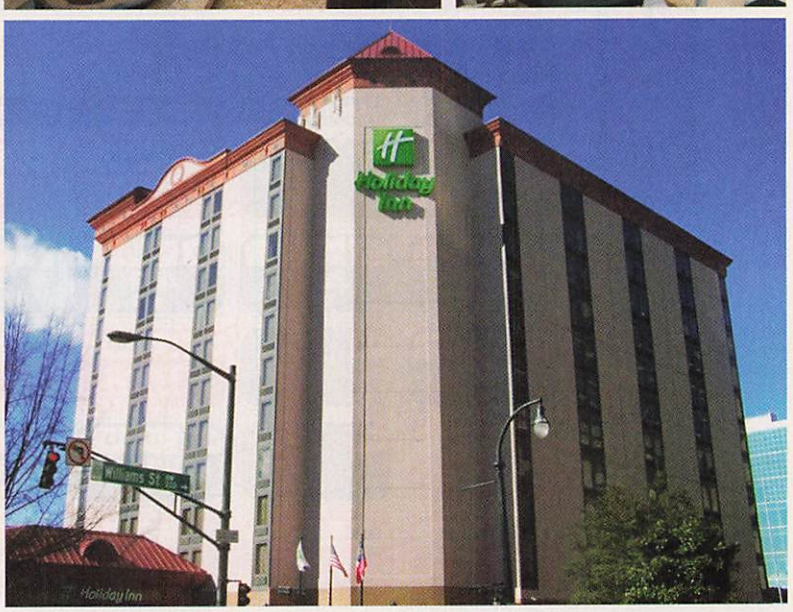


www.hidowntownatlanta.com/braves

2010 SCHEDULE

HOME

AWAY

ALL GAMES ON ROCK 100.5, 680 THE FAN, AND RADIO NETWORK AFFILIATES.

ROCK 100.5 ATLANTA'S ROCK STATION

SPORTS RADIO 680 The Fan

FSS FS SOUTH

PTV Peachtree TV

SS SPORTSOUTH

FOX FOX

ESPN ESPN

APRIL

GAME TIMES EASTERN; SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 1:05 EXHIBITION DET @Lakeland WFOM (1230 AM)	2 7:00 EXHIBITION CHI AL SS	3 1:00 EXHIBITION CHI AL FSS
4	5 4:00 CHC SS	6	7 7:00 CHC PTV	8 7:00 CHC PTV	9 4:30 SF FSS	10 10:00 SF SS
11 4:00 SF FSS	12 6:30 SD SS	13	14 10:00 SD SS	15 6:30 SD SS	16 7:30 COL PTV	17 7:00 COL SS
18 1:30 COL FSS	19	20 7:00 PHI PTV	21 7:00 PHI PTV	22 7:00 PHI PTV	23 7:00 NYM SS	24 1:00 NYM SS
25 8:00 NYM ESPN	26 8:00 STL PTV	27 8:00 STL PTV	28 8:00 STL PTV	29 1:30 STL SS	30 7:30 HOU SS	

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 3:00 HOU FOX
2 1:30 HOU FSS	3	4 7:00 WAS SS	5 7:00 WAS SS	6 7:00 WAS SS	7 7:00 PHI SS	8 3:00 PHI FOX
9 1:30 PHI FSS	10 8:00 MIL SS	11 8:00 MIL SS	12 1:00 MIL SS	13	14 7:30 ARI PTV	15 7:00 ARI SS
16 1:30 ARI FSS	17 7:00 NYM PTV	18 7:00 NYM PTV	19 7:00 CIN PTV	20 1:00 CIN SS	21 7:00 PIT SS	22 7:00 PIT
23 1:30 PIT FSS	24	25 7:00 FLA SS	26 7:00 FLA SS	27 7:00 FLA SS	28 7:30 PIT PTV	29 7:00 PIT SS
30 1:30 PIT FSS	31 1:00 PHI SS					

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:00 PHI PTV	2 1:00 PHI SS	3 10:00 LA SS	4 10:00 LA SS	5 10:00 LA SS
6 LA FSS	7 9:30 ARI SS	8 9:30 ARI SS	9 9:30 ARI SS	10 3:30 ARI SS	11 8:00 MIN SS	12 7:00 MIN SS
13 2:00 MIN FSS	14	15 7:00 TAM PTV	16 7:00 TAM PTV	17 7:00 TAM PTV	18 7:30 KC PTV	19 7:00 KC SS
20 1:30 KC FSS	21	22 8:00 CHI AL PTV	23 8:00 CHI AL PTV	24 2:00 CHI AL SS	25 7:30 DET PTV	26 4:00 DET SS
27 1:30 DET FSS	28 7:00 WAS PTV	29 7:00 WAS PTV	30 7:00 WAS SS			

2010 SCHEDULE

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 7:30 FLA PTV	3 4:00 FLA FOX
4 4:00 FLA FSS	5 7:00 PHI PTV	6 7:00 PHI PTV	7 7:00 PHI PTV	8	9 7:00 NY SS	10 4:00 NY FOX
11 1:00 NY FSS	12	13 ALL-STAR GAME ANAHEIM	14	15 7:00 MIL PTV	16 7:30 MIL PTV	17 7:00 MIL SS
18 1:30 MIL FSS	19	20 7:00 SD PTV	21 7:00 SD PTV	22 1:00 SD SS	23 7:00 FLA SS	24 7:00 FLA SS
25 1:00 FLA FSS	26	27 7:00 WAS SS	28 7:00 WAS SS	29 12:30 WAS SS	30 7:00 CIN SS	31 7:00 CIN SS

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1:00 CIN FSS	2 7:00 NYM ESPN	3 7:00 NYM PTV	4 7:00 NYM PTV	5 7:00 SF PTV	6 7:30 SF PTV	7 4:00 SF FOX
8 1:30 SF FSS	9 8:00 HOU SS	10 8:00 HOU SS	11 2:00 HOU SS	12	13 7:30 LA PTV	14 7:00 LA PTV
15 1:30 LA FSS	16 7:00 LA PTV	17 7:00 WAS SS	18 7:00 WAS SS	19 1:00 WAS SS	20 2:00 CHC SS	21 4:00 CHC FOX
22 CHC FSS	23 8:30 COL SS	24 8:30 COL SS	25 3:00 COL SS	26	27 7:30 FLA SS	28 4:00 FLA FOX
29 1:30 FLA FSS	30 7:00 NYM PTV	31 7:00 NYM PTV				

SEPT./OCT.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00 NYM PTV	2 7:00 NYM PTV	3 7:00 FLA SS	4 7:00 FLA SS
5 1:00 FLA FSS	6 1:30 PIT SS	7 7:00 PIT SS	8 7:00 PIT SS	9 7:00 STL PTV	10 7:30 STL PTV	11 4:00 STL FOX
12 1:30 STL FSS	13 7:00 WAS SS	14 7:00 WAS SS	15 12:00 WAS SS	16	17 7:00 NYM SS	18 4:00 NYM FOX
19 1:00 NYM FSS	20 7:00 PHI SS	21 7:00 PHI SS	22 7:00 PHI SS	23	24 7:00 WAS SS	25 1:00 WAS SS
26 1:30 WAS FSS	27 7:00 FLA SS	28 7:00 FLA SS	29 7:00 FLA SS	30	1 7:30 PHI SS	2 7:00 PHI SS
3 1:30 PHI FSS						

ROCK100.5 ATLANTA'S ROCK STATION

SPORTS RADIO 680 The Fan

ALL GAMES ON ROCK 100.5, 680 THE FAN, AND RADIO NETWORK AFFILIATES.

FSS FS SOUTH

PTV Peachtree TV

SS SPORTSOUTH

FOX FOX

ESPN ESPN

HOME

AWAY

TICKETING

TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR FOR TICKET INFORMATION, CALL (404) 577-9100 OR VISIT braves.com

INDIVIDUAL GAME TICKETS

No information was available at press time. Visit braves.com and watch future issues of ChopTalk for information as it is released.

SEASON TICKET PLANS

The following ticket plans are on sale. For more information, visit braves.com or call (404) 577-9100.

TYPE

***Added Value:** Save 20 percent by adding $10 to your game ticket, which is stored on the bar code for each game, for $8. The added value can be used at any concession stand. $10 is already included in the Henry Aaron and Club Level areas.

***755 Club:** A 755 Club membership is automatically included in Henry Aaron, Club Level and Club Pavilion areas.

***2-For-1:** 2-For-1 Season Tickets are available in rows 11 and higher in the Upper Box.

FULL SEASON (83 Games)

Level	*Type	Price
Henry Aaron Seats	Added Value/755 Club	$5,146
Dugout	Added Value	$5,146
	Regular	$4,482
Terrace	Added Value	$3,154
	Regular	$2,490
Field	Added Value	$3,486
	Regular	$2,822
Club	Added Value/755 Club	$3,154
Outfield Pavilion	Added Value	$1,826
	Regular	$1,162
Upper Box	2-For-1	$415
Terrace Reserved	Regular	$996
Field Reserved	Added Value	$1,826
	Regular	$1,162
Club Pavilion	755 Club	$1,162
Upper Pavilion	Added Value/755 Club	$1,826
	Regular	$249

HALF SEASON (42 Games+)

Level	*Type	Price
Field	Added Value	$1,848
	Regular	$1,512
Club	Added Value/755 Club	$1,764
Outfield Pavilion	Added Value	$1,092
	Regular	$756
Upper Box	Added Value	$798
	Regular	$462

WEEKENDS (30 Games+)

Level	*Type	Price
Field	Added Value	$1,320
	Regular	$1,080
Club	Added Value/755 Club	$1,260
Outfield	Added Value	$780
	Regular	$540
Upper Box	Added Value	$570
	Regular	$330

20-GAMES

DALE MURPHY PLAN

(Variety of Tuesday games and all Fridays)

Level	*Type	Price
Field	Added Value	$880
	Regular	$720
Club	Added Value/755 Club	$840

BOBBY COX PLAN

(Variety of Wednesday games and all Saturdays)

Level	*Type	Price
Field	Added Value	$880
	Regular	$720
Field-Early Cox	Adult	$640
Club	Added Value/755 Club	$840

PHIL NIEKRO PLAN

(Variety of Thursdays and all Sundays)

Level	*Type	Price
Field	Added Value	$880
	Regular	$720
Club	Added Value/755 Club	$840

WARREN SPAHN PLAN

(Only weekday games and all day games)

Level	*Type	Price
Field	Added Value	$880
	Regular	$720
Club	Added Value/755 Club	$840

FLEX PLANS

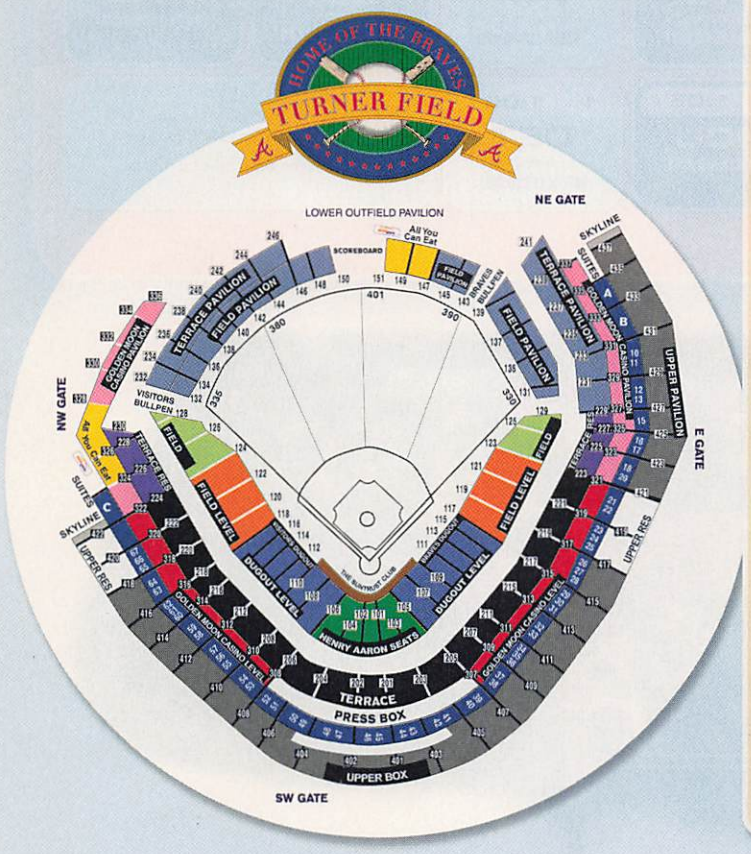
* Minimum of 10 games for as low as $110 per seat.
* Change dates if your plans change.

Section	Gate Price	Flex Price
Golden Moon	$44/48	$42
Field Level	$38/42	$37
Terrace	$36/40	$35
Field/Terrace Pavilion	$24/28	$22
Upper Box	$12/16	$11

6-GAME PLAN

Opening Day plus five Saturdays.
April 5 vs. Cubs,
May 15 vs. Diamondbacks,
June 19 vs. Kansas City Royals,
July 3 vs. Marlins,
Aug. 14 vs. Dodgers,
Oct. 2 vs. Phillies.

Section	Gate Price	6-Pack	Package
Terrace	$36/40	$35	$210
Field/Terrace Pavilion	$24/28	$22	$132
Upper Box	$12/16	$11	$66



GROUP TICKETS

Groups of 20 or more receive discounted prices. Call (404) 577-9100 for information.

PRIVATE SUITES

Located on the Golden Moon Casino Level. Climate controlled suite plus access to outside balcony seating. TVs, refrigerator, icemaker, wet bar and telephone. Available from two hours before the game until the last pitch. Call (404) 577-9100.

MUSEUM & TOUR INFO

The Ivan Allen Jr. Braves Museum features more than 600 Braves artifacts that trace the team's history from its beginnings in Boston (1871-1952) to Milwaukee (1953-65) to Atlanta (1966-present). It is located on the northwest side of Turner Field at aisle 134. The museum opens two and a half hours before each game and closes in the middle of the seventh inning. The museum is open year-round and is the starting point of one-hour guided tours of Turner Field. Tours leave on the hour.

Tour reservations are not necessary for individuals or groups of less than 20 people. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at the main ticket window. Free parking in the Green lot.

Admission to the museum during games is one token ($2) and $5 on non-game days. Tour tickets are $12 for adults, $7 for children and $10 for groups of 20 or more. Walk-up tickets can be purchased at the ticket window. Groups of 20 or more and school groups must make reservations two weeks in advance by calling (404) 614-2311.

HOURS OF OPERATION

OCTOBER - MARCH

Monday - Saturday	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
NOV. 27	CLOSED
Dec. 23-Jan. 2	CLOSED
JAN. 19	CLOSED

APRIL - OCTOBER

Monday - Saturday	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sunday	1 - 3 p.m.

TOUR TICKETS

ADULTS	$12
CHILDREN 13 AND UNDER	$7
MILITARY	$7
GROUP	$10

SCHOOL GROUP PRICES

CHILDREN	$5
ADULTS	$7

*Subject to change
Tours not available when the Braves have afternoon home games

2010 SPRING TRAINING

MARCH/APRIL

HOME | AWAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 1:10 NYM @ PORT ST. LUCIE	3 1:05 NYM WALR (1340 AM)	4 1:05 PIT WFOM/WALR (1230/1340 AM)	5 1:05 WAS WALR (1340 AM)	6 1:05 HOU @ KISSIMMEE The Fan (680 AM)
7 1:05 HOU The Fan (680 AM)	8 1:05 DET @ LAKELAND	9 7:05 PHI WFOM/WALR (1230/1340 AM)	10 1:05 NYM WALR (1340 AM)	11 7:05 NYY @ TAMPA WFOM/WALR (1230/1340 AM)	12 1:05 PIT WALR (1340 AM)	13 1:05 TOR The Fan (680 AM)
14 1:05 HOU/TOR SS @ KISSIMMEE/DUNEDIN The Fan (680 AM) HOUSTON GAME	15 7:05 WAS @ VIERA The Fan (680 AM)	16 1:05 FLA SPORTSOUTH WALR (1340 AM)	17 1:05 FLA @ JUPITER SPORTSOUTH WALR (1340 AM)	18 1:05 STL @ JUPITER WALR (1340 AM)	19 6:05 DET The Fan (680 AM)	20 1:05 TOR @ DUNEDIN The Fan (680 AM)
21 1:05 STL The Fan (680 AM)	22	23 1:10 NYM @ PORT ST. LUCIE ESPN The Fan (680 AM)	24 1:05 PHI ESPN The Fan (680 AM)	25 1:05 PIT @ BRADENTON WALR (1340 AM)	26 1:05 DET ESPN WFOM/WALR (1230/1340 AM)	27 1:05 WAS The Fan (680 AM)
28 1:05 WAS @ VIERA The Fan (680 AM)	29 1:05 PHI @ CLEARWATER WALR (1340 AM)	30 1:05 NYY The Fan (680 AM)	31 1:05 HOU WALR (1340 AM)	1 1:05 DET @ LAKELAND WFOM (1230 AM)		

- Home games at Champion Stadium, ESPN Wide World of Sports in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
- All times Eastern and subject to change.

Dates, times and opponents are subject to change.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS*

Single game tickets are on sale via Ticketmaster (1-800-745-3000), Ticketmaster.com, Braves.com, and at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex Box Office (Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-3 p.m).

$28-$39 - Lower Level Reserved
$24-$33 - Upper Level Reserved
$24-$33 - Bleacher Level Reserved
$15-$19 - General Admission Lawn

* Individual game ticket prices vary by game day and opponent.

ON-FIELD SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE

PRICE - $80 PER PERSON

Exclusive pre-game On-Field Spectator Experience allows fans on the field behind home plate to watch the Braves and their opponents warm up. Limited availability. Warmups run from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for games starting at 1:05 p.m., and from 4:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for games starting at 7:05 p.m. Batting practice times are subject to change without notice.

SEASON TICKETS*

$400 - LOWER LEVEL RESERVED
$320 - UPPER LEVEL/BLEACHER RESERVED

Includes:
* 16 Games vs. opponents including the World Champion Yankees (Mar. 30) and the National League champion Phillies (Mar. 9 & 24).

* Invitation to an exclusive event at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex with Atlanta Braves players.

* Opportunity to purchase additional single game tickets before they go on sale to the public.

* General admission pass valid for Atlanta Braves practice sessions, excluding game days (valid Feb. 14-April 1).

* Preferred parking option (subject to availability) - $80 for spring training season.

* Exclusive season ticket holder stadium entrance.

* Complimentary annual golf membership at Walt Disney World Courses.

GROUP TICKETS

Groups of 10 or more should call (407) 939-GAME (4263) as soon as possible to reserve the best possible seat location and to avoid sellouts.

SUITES AND HOSPITALITY

Groups ranging in size from 15 to 300 fans can rent a variety of indoor and outdoor locations, ranging from Climate-Controlled Indoor Luxury Suites (15 to 40 fans) to Open Air Suites (40 fans) and Tented Patio with Stadium Seating (150 to 300 fans). Call (407) 939-GAME (4263) for information.

MINI PLANS

6 GAMES - $170

Sunday, Mar. 7	Astros
Tuesday, Mar. 9	Phillies
Saturday, Mar. 13	Blue Jays
Friday, Mar. 19	Tigers
Sunday, Mar. 21	Cardinals
Saturday, Mar. 27	Nationals

1ST HALF/3 GAMES - $78

Wednesday, Mar. 10	Mets
Friday, Mar. 12	Pirates
Saturday, Mar. 13	Blue Jays

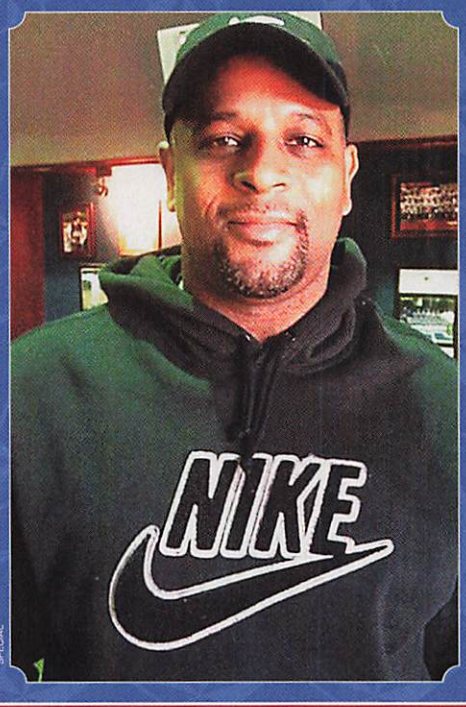
2ND HALF/3 GAMES - $83

Saturday, Mar. 27	Nationals
Tuesday, Mar. 30	Yankees
Wednesday, Mar. 31	Astros

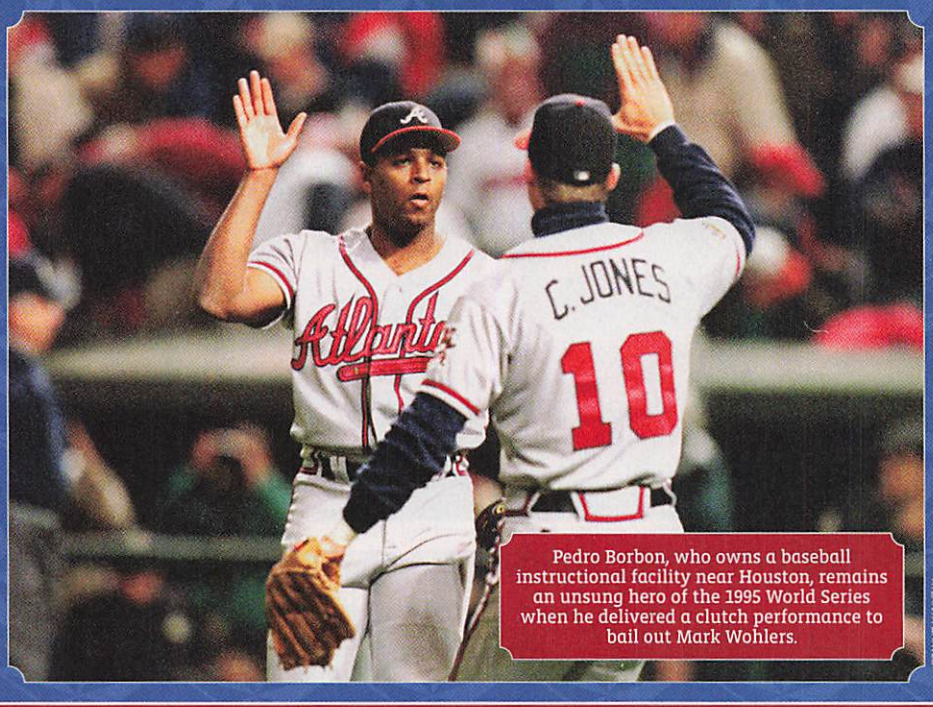
(Mini Plan seats are located in selected Upper Level Reserved or Bleacher Reserved sections.)

CONTACT

For more information on tickets and the schedule, visit disneysports.com/atlantabraves or call (407) 939-GAME (4263).



SPEDAL



Pedro Borbon, who owns a baseball instructional facility near Houston, remains an unsung hero of the 1995 World Series when he delivered a clutch performance to bail out Mark Wohlers.

ATLANTA BRAVES

ONE-INNING WONDER

Now A Coach, Borbon Produced Game 4 Relief That Was Vital To '95 World Championship

BY BRIAN KNAPP

NESTLED ON THE OUTSKIRTS of Houston, Tex., rests a 10,000-square-foot baseball training facility around which former Braves reliever Pedro Borbon has built his life.

Borbon purchased The Ballpark Academy within the past year and spends five to six days each week giving pitching lessons in Missouri City, Texas. Roughly 80 pitchers, ages 9 to 23, fall under his watch. At age 42, he and his bullwhip of a left arm have found their niche.

"It's the only thing I know how to do," Borbon said. "I'm giving something back to the kids with all my experience. It's like anything else when you spend half your life doing a job. It's what I've done my whole life, but it's not an easy transition from player to coach. You have to be patient and teach."

Borbon - who spent pieces of nine seasons in the majors with the Braves (1992-93, 1995-96), Dodgers (1999), Blue Jays (2000-02), Astros (2002) and Cardinals (2003) - started giving pitching lessons at the academy in 2007 and decided to purchase the property when it went up for sale in 2009. It was far more than a financial investment. It also was a chance to shape young minds and arms, one pitch at a time.

"I enjoy seeing them progress," said Borbon, who charges between $640 and $900 for 20 lessons. "Plus, it's a good living."

It took some time for the southpaw to settle into his post-playing career. He served briefly as a pitching coach for the Cedar Rapids Kernals, a Class-A affiliate for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, but life on the road in the minor leagues was at odds with his personal desires. Borbon had outgrown long bus rides. The married father of two wanted to remain closer to home, and consequently left his post after just six weeks. He does not foresee a return to professional coaching, unless the perfect situation presents itself.

"I don't think I'll be coaching again anytime soon, unless I get the opportunity to go straight to the big leagues," Borbon said. "There are a lot of headaches associated with traveling in the minor leagues."

He knows the life well. Signed by Atlanta in 1989 following his release by the Chicago White Sox, Borbon made more than 100 minor league appearances before the Braves called him up in 1992. He spent his first four seasons at the major league level in an Atlanta uniform, appearing in 89 games and establishing himself as a quality option out of the bullpen.

A reliever throughout his career, Borbon loved living on the edge and walking the tightrope a pitcher must walk when games are on the line.

"I enjoyed the thrill of going out, holding a game where it was, and getting the opportunity for a save or a win," he said.

Borbon grew up with the rare opportunity of watching his father - also Pedro Borbon - excel as a major league relief pitcher for 12 season, mainly with the Cincinnati Reds, from 1970-79, when he played on three National League championship teams and two World Series winners (1975, '76). The senior Borbon, a righthander,

will be inducted into the Reds Hall of Fame during the coming season.

The junior Borbon remains best known for his one-inning relief stint for the Braves in the 1995 World Series against the Indians. A relatively unsung hero in Atlanta's march to the World Championship, he saved pivotal Game 4 in Cleveland, when he struck out Jim Thome and Sandy Alomar Jr. and induced a flyout from Kenny Lofton to preserve a 5-2 victory. The then 27-year-old entered the game in the ninth inning in relief of closer Mark Wohlers, who gave up a home run and double to the only two batters he faced after working two and two-thirds innings the night before. It was Borbon's only appearance of the Series, and he made it count, picking up a save in the only World Series appearance of his career.

"It was one of those things that's hard to explain," he said. "I was kind of angry, nervous and excited - angry because I hadn't pitched in 20 days. I think being angry helped. I was thrown out there because Bobby [Cox] had confidence in me."

Three days later, after some Game 6 heroics from Tom Glavine and David Justice, the Braves were World Champions.

"It was special. It's still special to me," said the second-generation major leaguer. "It will always be something I never forget."

He remained a key part of the Atlanta bullpen in 1996 when the Braves won 96 games and made the fourth of their five World Series appearances in the decade. Borbon went 3-0 with a 2.75 earned run average and struck out 31 batters in 36 innings, but he suffered a torn elbow ligament in August and underwent reconstructive surgery soon after. His career in Atlanta was over. The lefthander missed the 1997 season and was granted free agency after he spent the entire 1998 campaign in the minor leagues.

Borbon closed out his major league service with hot-and-cold stints in Los Angeles, Toronto, Houston and St. Louis. Released by the Angels organization in the summer of 2005, he finished his career with a 16-16 record (six saves) and 4.68 ERA, allowing fewer hits (259) than innings pitched (271) in 368 appearances. Borbon retired in 2006 after spending two games in the independent Atlantic League. He has no regrets.

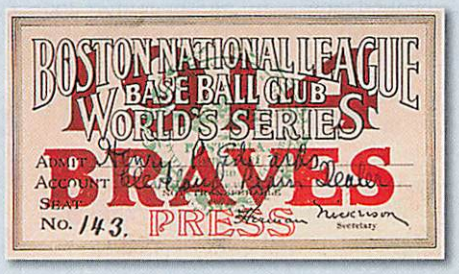
"I was self-made, self-taught. I did everything on my own," said Borbon, who was 5-3 with three saves and a 3.42 as a Brave. "Sometimes, it was overwhelming, but once you get used to being in the big leagues, it becomes a normal job. It was great, a dream come true."

BOSTON PERIOD RETAINS ITS APPEAL

THE BOSTON BRAVES played their last game way back in 1952, but their memorabilia still attracts collectors over half a century later.

Part of Boston Braves history lives on. The right field grandstand of Braves Field – the team's home from 1915 through 1952 – still stands today. The ballpark became a source of collectibles, but not to the same extent as more recent stadiums.

"When it was destroyed, the whole baseball memorabilia industry just wasn't there, and artifacts from Braves Field weren't real preserved," said Bob Brady, the long-time newsletter editor of the Boston Braves Historical Association (boston-braves.com). "For example, there aren't very many seats that were salvaged. Unlike what you are seeing now in the marketplace for Yankee Stadium, Shea Stadium, Tiger Stadium, and Comiskey Park, where they saved everything – including the men's room signs – and they're selling them at fantastic prices. There aren't that many things."



Some unique Braves Field collectibles took years to surface, according to Brady.

"As the field was being deconstructed, some kids went in there and dug up home plate," he said. "As the kids grew older, they kept it, and they would hide it in the basement of their houses. In 1988, when they had the 40th reunion of the last National League Boston Braves champion, one of the kids came forward with home plate and gave it to the New England Sports Museum. So, the New England Sports Museum has the original and last home plate at Braves Field in its possession."

Brady speculates that other prized Braves memorabilia exists in private collections. Occasionally, rare pieces surface in auctions, but it's impossible to know how much is out there.

"Because the Braves played in two World Series (1914 and 1948), items specific to those Series draw interest, such as press pins, ticket stubs, pennants, group photos and other items," said Ben Henry of The Baseball Card Blog.

In an auction last November, a 1914 Boston Braves World Series press pass (above) sold for $700. According to Hunt Auctions, the Braves issued the pass for their World Series against the favored Philadelphia A's. The Braves swept the series in four games, their only World Championship in Boston.

The Boston Braves Historical Association (BBHA) has an unused ticket for Game 7 of the 1948 World Series. Since the Indians defeated the Braves four games to two, that game never took place. The BBHA also has a ticket stub from Game 1 signed by starting pitchers Johnny Sain and Cleveland's Bob Feller. It even has a Boston Braves ticket from 1953, which was printed before the team's decision to move to Milwaukee for that season was announced in spring training. By law, the tickets had to be burned at the time, but a few turned up years later.

For some collectors, memorabilia from teams that no longer exist like the Boston Braves has added appeal or novelty.

Autographed balls, bats, and photos by Boston Braves stars draw interest. Although he's not a Hall of Fame member, Sain (who is in the Braves Hal of Fame) spent his finest years in Boston. Several websites offer a signed photo of the "Pray for Rain Combo" of Sain and Warren Spahn for between $125 and $225.

ALUMNI NOTES

- The Atlanta Braves' first manager, **Bobby Bragan** (1963-66), died Jan. 21 at his home in Fort Worth, Tex., at age 92.

- **Phil Niekro** (RHP, 1964-83, '87) will be among the players in the second annual Baseball Hall of Fame Classic on Father's Day (June 20) at 1 p.m. in Cooperstown, N.Y. Tickets go on sale Mar. 20, and if tickets remain, phone and internet sales begin Mar. 29.

  The **Joe Niekro** (RHP, 1973-74) Foundation and the Character and Courage Foundation are teaming for the Legends Fantasy Camp Sept. 26-Oct. 1 in Las Vegas, with Phil Niekro and **Gaylord Perry** (RHP, 1981) among the four Hall of Famers that will manage the campers. For more information, visit joeniekrofoundation.com or call (602) 318-1013.

- **Rico Carty** (OF, 1963-72), **Chris Hammond** (LHP, 2002), **Al Hrabosky** (LHP, 1980-82), **Orlando Cepeda** (1B, 1969-72), **Dennis Martinez** (RHP, 1998), **Al Dark** (SS, 1946, '48-49, '60) and **John "Blue Moon" Odom** (RHP, 1975) were among 60 former major leaguers participating in the 22nd annual Joe DiMaggio Legends Baseball Game Jan. 30 at Fort Lauderdale Stadium.

- **Dale Murphy** (OF/C/1B, 1976-90) spoke at the Auburn University preseason baseball banquet Jan. 30 and also attended the Auburn-Alabama basketball game.

  Murphy spoke to 500 Utah youth council members and 300 elected officials Jan. 27 during Local Officials Day at the Utah state legislature.

- On May 16, the Milwaukee Brewers will give away bobbleheads of **Hank Aaron** (OF/1B, 1954-74) hitting his 755th and final home run as part of the franchise's 40th anniversary celebration.

- Marlins manager **Fredi Gonzalez** (Coach, 2003-06), was part of the team's contingent visiting military troops in Kuwait and Iraq for a week, flew several missions in Black Hawk helicopters.

- **Alejandro Pena** (RHP, 1991-92, '95) is a pitching coach at the Dodgers' academy in the Dominican Republic.

- **Kenny Lofton** (OF, 1997) was named to the Cleveland Indians Hall of Fame.

- **Mike Cather** (RHP, 1997-99) was named an advance major league scout for the Boston Red Sox. Last year he was the team's Double-A pitching coach.

- **Horacio Ramirez** (LHP, 2003-06) signed a minor league contract with San Francisco.

- Pittsburgh signed **Octavio Dotel** (RHP, 2007) to a one-year contract with an option for 2011.

- Boston signed **Chad Paronto** (RHP, 2006-07) to a minor league contract.

- The Red Sox signed **Jorge Sosa** (RHP, 2005-06) to a minor league contract.

- Pittsburgh claimed **Brandon Jones** (OF, 2007-08) off waivers from Atlanta.

- The on-again/off-again movie based on the book "Moneyball" reportedly is on again for a 2011 release. **David Justice** (OF/1B, 1989-96) is among the players scheduled to appear in it.

- **Jack Curtis** (LHP, 1962) was among the guests at the 36th Wilson (N.C.) Hot Stove banquet Feb. 1.

- **Joe Nelson** (RHP, 2001) signed a minor league deal with the Red Sox.

- **Jane Jarvis**, the Braves' organist for eight seasons starting in 1954 in Milwaukee, died Jan. 25 at age 94 in Englewood, N.J.

- The Milwaukee Brewers named **Joe Ayrault** (C, 1996) manager of their rookie-level Helena (Montana) affiliate in the Pioneer League.

- **Brian Barton** (OF, 2009) signed a minor-league contract with the Dodgers with an invitation to spring training.

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

1ST	NICK STRINCEVICH (95)
	JIM PANTHER (65)
	TONY CASTILLO (47)
2ND	DON SCHWALL (74)
	RON GANT (45)
	RAUL MONDESI (39)
3RD	CHUCK CARY (50)
	MATT DIAZ (32)
	JORGE JULIO (31)
4TH	BOB W. JOHNSON (74)
	JEFF DEDMON (50)
	BRIAN HUNTER (42)
	ED GIOVANOLA (31)
	DAVE STEVENS (40)
5TH	DEL CRANDALL (80)
	PHIL ROOF (69)
	MIKE HESSMAN (32)
	FRANCISLEY BUENO (29)
6TH	RICK BEHENNA (50)
7TH	GLEN CLARK (69)
	JEFF BURROUGHS (59)
	ALBERT HALL (52)
8TH	JIM BOUTON (71)
9TH	DARREL CHANEY (62)
	TERRY MULHOLLAND (47)
	C.J. NITKOWSKI (37)
	WAYNE FRANKLIN (36)
	WILLY AYBAR (27)
10TH	KEN MACKENZIE (76)
11TH	STEVE REED (44)
12TH	JIMMY WYNN (68)
	DALE MURPHY (54)
13TH	RAY MARTIN (85)
	GARY KOLB (70)
	MARV STAEHLE (68)
	JORGE FABREGAS (40)
14TH	JERRY WILLARD (50)
15TH	ROBERT FICK (36)
	VLADIMIR NÚÑEZ (35)
17TH	JIMMIE HALL (72)
	CITO GASTON (66)
18TH	PAT JARVIS (69)
	GERONIMO BERROA (45)
	CORKY MILLER (34)
19TH	**DAVID ROSS (33)**
20TH	PAT CORRALES (69)
22ND	GEORGE CROWE (89)
	MATT SINATRO (50)
23RD	JOHNNY LOGAN (84)
	BOBBY DEWS (72)
	MIKE REMLINGER (44)
	TONY PENA (29)
24TH	JOSE CABRERA (38)
	STEVE KARSAY (38)
25TH	JIM BRITTON (66)
	TOM GLAVINE (44)
	HOWARD BATTLE (38)
26TH	JARVIS BROWN (43)
	SHANE REYNOLDS (42)
27TH	WALT LINDEN (86)
	WES COVINGTON (78)
	DICK RUTHVEN (59)
29TH	DENNY MCLAIN (66)
	BRIAN JORDAN (43)
	DAN KOLB (35)
31ST	JOHN HERRNSTEIN (72)
	TOM HAUSMAN (57)

ChopTalk
THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE ATLANTA BRAVES

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GARY CARUSO

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

THE LITTLE THINGS

SPRING IS THE BEST TIME to be a baseball fan. Your favorite team is romping in the Florida or Arizona sunshine and hasn't lost a game yet. Optimism abounds in every camp. No one expounds more optimism this time of year than the Answer Man, even though he may be a bit cryptic at times. So, we thought this would be a good occasion to call on the great sage to find out what he foresees for the Braves this season.

How's your off-season been, Great Wizard?

Answer Man: You should know better than to ask that since you know I have to travel through Washington D.C. a lot! That place is like Antarctica. They'll be lucky if they can even find Nationals Park by the All-Star break.

Yes, of course, you're right, as usual. Well, actually, you're not always right. You nailed it a year ago on Tommy Hanson, but you were off base on a few things, too. I hate to bring it up, but let's be truthful here.

A.M.: Hey, this is baseball. Remember, a 30-percent success rate makes All-Star hitters. I'll match my record with that any time.

Okay, let's face it. Predicting what will happen in baseball is a guessing game.

A.M.: Hey, watch it! That's my reputation you're taking about. The Answer Man may not bat 1.000, but I expect to receive more respect that the "guessers" in the mainstream sports media.

We'll give you that. So, let's get down to serious business... What will be the key to the season for the Braves?

A.M.: The little things. Even *you* know that baseball is a "game of inches." You don't need to consult me about that. Safe or out? Ball or strike? Home run or popup? It's often a matter of inches, unless you're talking about the 1997 NLCS and Eric Gregg. But let's not go there.

So, what are you saying, that the Braves' chance for success is based simply on umpires' calls and the luck of the game?

A.M.: No, bonehead. I'm saying there are a lot of little things that can easily be overlooked, but when studied closely will tell the story come October.

For instance?

A.M. Eyesight. It's taken for granted that major league hitters have excellent vision, or else they wouldn't be major league hitters. Well, as we all know, Brian McCann didn't have it last April when he hit .195. And even the rest of the year, he wasn't 100 percent wearing glasses. He's since had successful Lasik surgery and that's bad news for pitchers. Then there's Nate McLouth, who struggled late last year when most of the rest of the team was smoking the ball in hopes of making the playoffs. He found out after the season that his vision had changed and he wasn't seeing the ball the way he should. Contact lenses have taken care of that.

I see...

A.M.: Watch the puns! But that's the sort of "little thing" that the so-called experts, who only wish they could see as clearly as the Answer Man, completely overlook when analyzing the 2010 Braves. A few more hits from those two guys is no little thing, my friend.

What else can you enlighten us on?

A.M.: You shouldn't end a sentence with a preposition! I shouldn't have to tell *you* that.

Come on, we're just talking some baseball.

A.M.: Okay... Two words... Martin Prado. You saw what he did last year, how much better the team plated when he was in the lineup every day. Did you read what he said in ChopTalk last year? You *better* have seen it! "This is what I love. This is what I live for," he said about contributing to the Braves. He called teamwork "magical." Other players don't usually talk like that. I like this guy - a lot.

Any more little things?

A.M.: It's Bobby Cox's last season. This isn't football. The Braves can't "win one for The Gipper." But over the course of 162 games, when push comes to shove - as it surely will - this will give the Braves an added edge that no other team has.

One more question. Will the Braves sign Johnny Damon?

A.M.: Sorry, we're out of space. I'll tell you next month. Until then, the invoice is in the mail.

THIS ISSUE OF CHOPTALK was mailed Feb. 17. The April issue will be mailed Mar. 19.

BEYOND BASEBALL

BY **PATTY RASMUSSEN**

MUSIC MAN

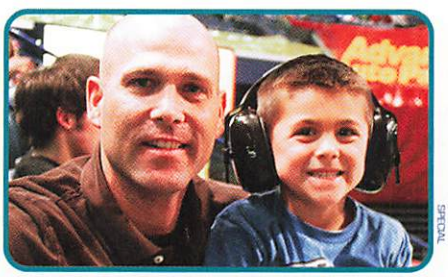
ATLANTA BRAVES

Tommy Hanson made a trip to Los Angeles to see the Grammy Awards, where he says he might have won top honors for "most casually dress."

THOUGH HE SPENT the majority of the off-season in Atlanta, **Tommy Hanson** and a friend made a special trip to his native California to attend the Grammy Awards, held Jan. 31 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Hanson purchased the tickets four months prior at a charity event. Asked whether he wore a tuxedo, the laid-back pitcher replied, "No, I think I was the most casually dressed person there. I wore jeans and shirt and jacket." Hanson said the best live performances were R&B superstar **Beyonce**, who also won six Grammys, and rock artist, **Pink**. His favorite group, the Kings of Leon, didn't perform but won three awards, including the prestigious 'Record of the Year.' "They gave the funniest acceptance speech, too," said Hanson.

RIGHTFIELDER-OF-THE-FUTURE **Jason Heyward** and fellow Braves farmhands **Jeff Lyman** (RHP), **Lee Hyde** (LHP) and **Jonny Venters** (LHP) attended the Major League Baseball 2010 Rookie Career Development Program (RCDP) held Jan. 28-31 in Landsdowne, Va. The RCDP is an intensive training program for emerging talent on each team in the majors. Players are involved in interactive sessions with topics such as dealing with the media, handling their finances, questions regarding rules and performance enhancing drugs...

"Of Mikes and Men: A Lifetime of Braves Baseball" by retired Braves Hall of Fame broadcaster **Pete Van Wieren** with longtime sports journalist **Jack Wilkinson** will be available in bookstores by mid-April. Van Wieren said he and Wilkinson began work on the book in summer 2009 with intensive sessions held at Van Wieren's home in Roswell, Ga., and at legendary intown watering hole, Manuel's Tavern. The book is full of Van Wieren's memories of growing up in Rochester, N.Y., breaking into sports broadcasting, and his long and storied career with the Braves...



SPECIAL

Tim Hudson and son, Kade, take in the Monster Truck Jam at the Georgia Dome, where they were accompanied by former Brave Buddy Carlyle and his son, Carter.

The Hudson Family Foundation was among 10 non-profit organizations to receive the **Martin Luther King Jr.** Community Service Award sponsored by the Rollins School of Public Health, part of Emory University's Goizueta School of Business. A ceremony honoring the organizations took place on the Emory campus in Atlanta on Jan. 21. The award was presented to **Tim** and **Kim Hudson** by **Christine King Farris**, the only surviving sibling of Dr. King... Tim and son **Kade** attended the Monster Truck Jam, Jan. 10, at the Georgia Dome along with former Braves pitcher **Buddy Carlyle** and his son, **Carter**...

The Hudson Family Foundation sponsored a Valentines for Kids making party on Feb. 2 in Peachtree City. Valentines for Kids is an annual service project sponsored by a local radio station. Participants created handmade Valentine cards that are sent to children's homes, foster care programs, and other children's care agencies...

Tim Hudson was inducted into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame in Columbus, Ga. He was born in Columbus but grew up in nearby Phenix City, Ala. Tim attended the Feb. 6 induction ceremony at the Columbus Civic Center with wife, **Kim**, and their children, **Kennedie**, **Tess**, and **Kade**. Tim hosted his annual "guys weekend" at his Alabama farm, Kenteska Plantation, Jan. 29-31. Among the "guys" were teammates **Peter Moylan** and **Kris Medlen** and former teammates **Todd Pratt** and **Jason Isringhausen**...

Longtime Braves coach and current major league con-

sultant **Bobby Dews** hosted a hunting party and lunch at his southwest Georgia home on Jan. 20 for Braves president **John Schuerholz**, general manager **Frank Wren** and Braves traveling secretary and clubhouse manager **Bill Acree**. Dews catered in a lunch of traditional Southern New Year's food - black-eyed peas, rice, turnip greens, ham, cornbread and streak-o-lean. "After all, it is a new - baseball - year, and luck is always a factor," said Dews. Dews also visited St. Simons Island on the Georgia coast to speak at a luncheon of the St. Simon's Library League and signed books at the G.J. Ford Bookshop on the island...

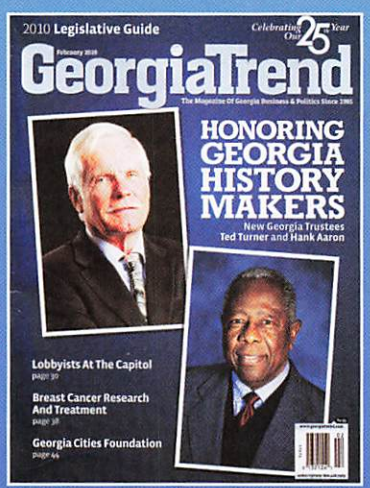
Tom Glavine's Spring Training Event to benefit the Georgia Transplant Foundation was held Jan. 29 at the Mason Murer Gallery in Atlanta. The sold-out affair was hosted by Tom and his wife, **Chris**. Among the celebrities in attendance were **Brian McCann** and his wife **Ashley**, former Braves **Jeff Francoeur** and his wife, **Catie**, and **Kelly Johnson** and wife, **Lauren**. Glavine's former teammate **Mark Lemke** was also on hand, as was Atlanta Falcons quarterback **Matt Ryan** and Falcons fullback **Ovie Mughelli**. At press time, the amount raised in ticket sales as well as silent and live auctions stood at $360,000, a full $60,000 more than was raised in 2009...

Fox Sports South and SportSouth hosted a luncheon at Maggianos, in the Buckhead section of Atlanta, Feb. 4, for their advertisers. The luncheon featured introductions of the pre-and post-game studio talent, **Fred Hickman**, **Brian Jordan** and **Jerome Jurenovich**, as well as announcers **Joe Simpson** and his "new" broadcaster partner, **Chip Caray**, who replaces **Jon "Boog" Sciambi**, now with ESPN. **John Schuerholz** was also in attendance and gave an enthusiastic rundown of the 2010 Braves team, position-by-position. Fans who get Fox Sports South and Sports South can also look forward to new original programming, including an "In My Own Words" with Braves Hall of Famer **Greg Maddux**, and video home visits to **Tim** and **Kim Hudson**'s Kenteska Plantation, and the Double Dime Ranch with **Chipper Jones**...

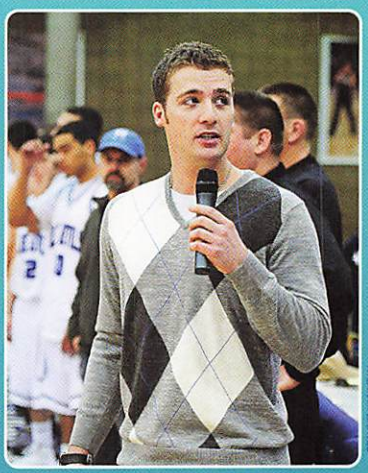
Chipper Jones planned to attend the **Jason Aldean** and **Luke Bryan** country music concert at the **James Brown** Civic Center in Augusta, Ga., on Feb. 20 before heading to spring training. Friends and hunting buddies of Jones, Aldean and Bryan are currently touring together. Chipper's parents, **Larry** and **Lynne Jones** will spend a week in Florida prior to the spring training games starting. Chipper said he wanted a little one-on-one time with his personal hitting coach - his dad, Larry - while Lynne hoped to take off the winter chill with some Florida sunshine...

Not only does **Ed Mangan** keep Turner Field's grass in pristine condition, but he also served as Super Bowl field director for the 10th year. This year's task was even trickier as the NFL Pro Bowl was held one week prior to the Super Bowl in the same facility, Sun Life Stadium in Miami. Mangan and his 35-person crew had just six days to restore the playing field to game day condition...

COVER BOYS



FORMER BRAVES owner **Ted Turner** and Hall of Famer **Hank Aaron** were together again, this time as the cover story in the February issue of Georgia Trend magazine. The feature story highlights the duo's accomplishments, on and off the playing field, in conjunction with them being named to the roster of Georgia Trustees at the Georgia Historical Society's Birthday Bash and Awards Gala in Savannah, Feb 13. The "Georgia Trustee" designation is the highest honor the state can bestow on an individual.



WALLA! WALLA!

ERIC O'FLAHERTY (above) was honored by his alma mater, Walla Walla High School in Walla Walla, Washington, prior to a basketball game on Jan. 22. O'Flaherty, who graduated from "Wa-Hi" in 2003 and was a one-time Big Nine Conference Pitcher of the Year, received the Big Blue Booster Professional Athlete Alumni Award from the past-president of the school's booster club. "He was given a framed Wa-Hi jersey with his high school number," said **Don Wilkins**, athletic director at the high school.

Briana Jordan, 18-year-old daughter of former Braves outfielder turned broadcaster **Brian Jordan**, has signed to play women's basketball at Tennessee Tech. Briana is a senior and star athlete at Greater Atlanta Christian in Atlanta, and is currently ranked by ESPN as the number 41 shooting guard in the nation...

The **Cindy Donald** Dreams of Recovery Foundation held its 2010 Annual Magic Show and Auction Jan. 23 at the Mountain View Community Center in Marietta. Among those in attendance were advisors to the board and friends of Donald, **Bobby Cox**, Marlins manager and former Braves coach **Fredi Gonzalez**, and former Braves coach and now special advisor to the Royals GM, **Ned Yost**.

TALKIN' CHOP

LETTERS & PHOTOS FROM OUR READERS

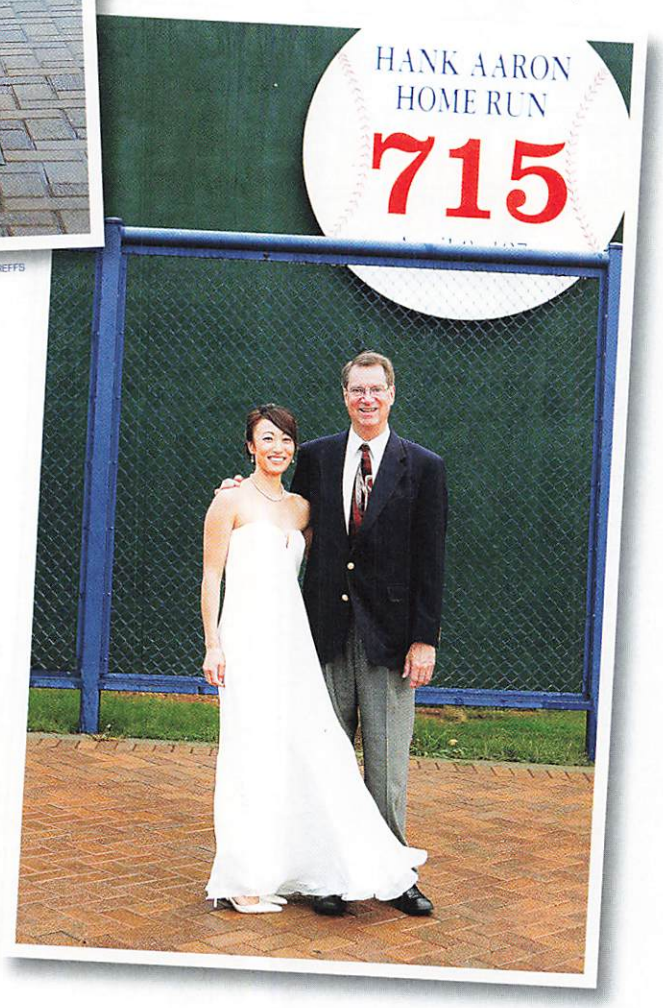
WHETHER YOU'RE HAVING FUN AT TURNER FIELD, EXPERIENCING A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH YOUR FAVORITE BRAVES PLAYER, OR JUST SHOWING OFF YOUR COLLECTION OF BRAVES STUFF OR TRYING ON YOUR NEW BRAVES SHIRT, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT AND SEE A PICTURE.

PHOTOS: ALLISON SHIRREFFS

ERIN... AS IN HANK! ✉

We were adopting Erin and were trying to decide on a name for her. Being a baseball fan and since Hank Aaron had broken the home run record, I suggested "Erin." My wife is not a big baseball fan, but both of us admired Hank Aaron as a person and player. We could not think of a better person to name our daughter after than Hank. So, we did. However, I was shot down suggesting Erin Ruth. Naturally, when Erin was married late last year in Atlanta, we just had to pose for these pictures at the scene of 715 when taking a post-wedding limo ride. I was thrilled, and I think Erin was, too!

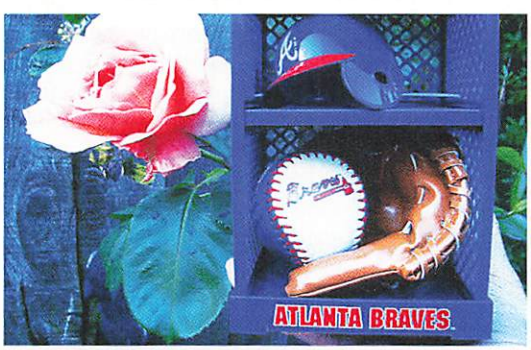
STEVE WILSON
Baltimore, Md.



THE ROSE GARDEN ✉

This is a photo that was taken in my flower garden in the U.K. It's amazing how far Braves merchandise travels. It was part of my birthday gift from my friend, Katie, in Alabama. I was thrilled to receive it.

MAUREEN SPEAR
Nottingham, U.K.



CHOPTALK AND THE ATLANTA BRAVES SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

DRESSED FOR BRAZIL

I had the opportunity to go to Brazil this past September to help Give the Gift of Sight for my company's charitable organization One Sight. It was such an incredible experience, being able to explore this awesome country and help give back to some deserving folks who normally would have to wait three-plus years for a new pair of glasses. I have attached a picture of the five of us getting some ice cream after our shift of making the glasses in the lab. I just happen to be wearing my favorite Braves cap.

BRANDY COPSEY
Waldorf, Md.

BUDDY THE CAT

My name is Buddy, and my favorite player is Chipper Jones! My owners are huge Braves fans, too. They went to two Braves games last April and are hoping to go to some more games this summer. I watch Braves games every night with them!

KAITIE MAST
Rockbridge Baths, Va.

SHARE YOUR BRAVES FEVER!

WRITE TO US

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Atlanta Braves
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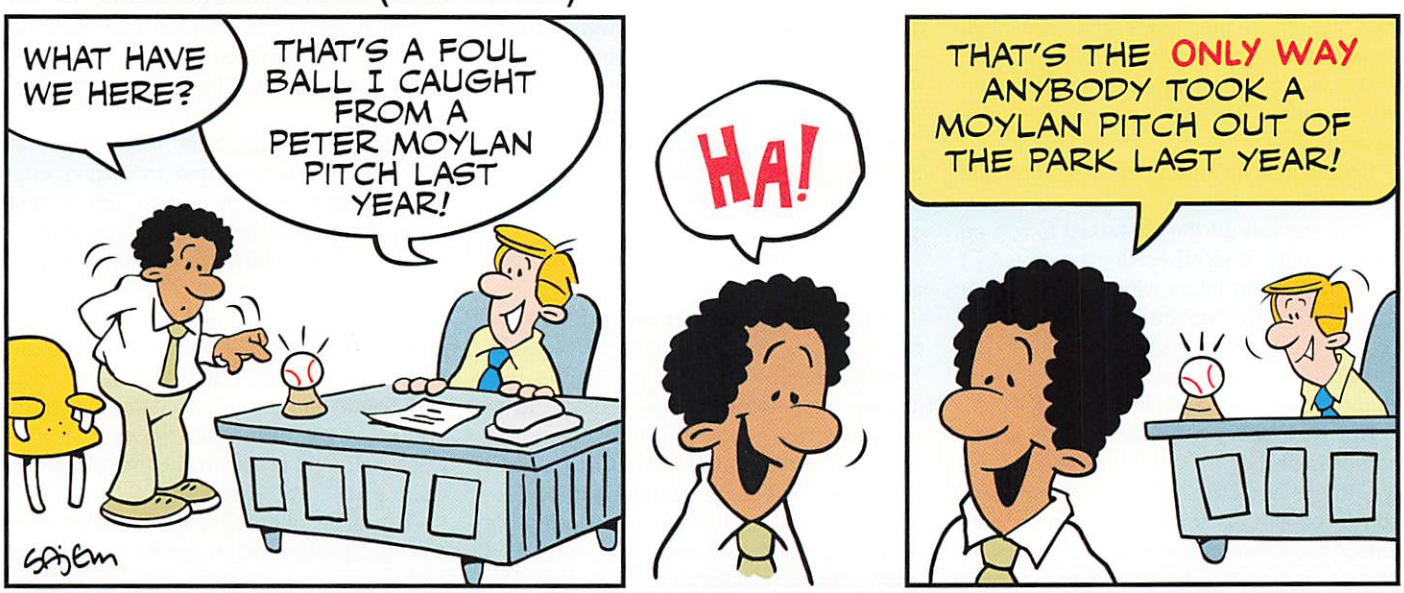
Atlanta, Ga. 30302

For the Braves players, Bobby Cox, the coaches, broadcasters, or members of the front office.

If you request a response, be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Never send anything of value that you want returned. This is no guarantee of a reply.

IT'S OUTTA' HERE! (SORT OF)



HOW "HOMER" WENT FROM MASCOT TO MOVIE

BY GARY CARUSO

EVER WONDER who those people are running around at sports events in mascot costumes? Well, anyone who's seen the award-winning Hallmark Hall of Fame TV movie "Front Of The Class" has an idea who was running around Turner Field as "Homer" and the now discontinued "Rally" during Braves games from 2001-04.

The movie is the story of Brad Cohen, a youngster who is ridiculed and teased because he has Tourette Syndrome, but he eventually defies the odds to become a teacher and then receives the First Year Teacher of the Year Award for the state of Georgia. Now an acclaimed motivational speaker and author, among other things, the 36-year-old Cohen has a resume that also includes working for the Braves as a mascot.

Some scenes in the movie about his life, which debuted in December 2008 but aired again nationally in early February, were staged to look like they took place at Turner Field. Cohen's part was played by Jimmy Wolk (The Spiral Project) and as a youngster by Dominic Scott Kay (Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End). His parents are played by Patricia Heaton (Everybody Loves Raymond) and Treat Williams (Everwood).

Tourette is an inherited neurological disorder characterized by involuntary physical and verbal "tics." Jim Eisenreich, a former outfielder mainly with Kansas City and Philadelphia, created increased awareness of the disorder during a very successful 15-year career in the 1980s and '90s (.290 career batting average).

"He was one of my heroes," said Cohen of Eisenreich. "He was a role model. I love baseball."

Cohen grew up in St. Louis as a Cardinals fan.

"I remember all the kids used to run up to (Cardinals mascot) Fredbird and yell, 'I want my picture taken with Fredbird! Take my picture with Fredbird,'" recalled Cohen. "I didn't say that. I said, 'I want to *be* Fredbird!' So, when I put on that suit to be Homer, it was like a dream come true."

Not that being a mascot was Cohen's career goal, but it's sometimes funny the way things work. He had some friends who convinced him to move to Atlanta after college in the summer of 1996. Another friend who was working for the Braves complained about the lack of dependability of mascot workers, and since Cohen was working as a teacher and had the summer off, he said, "I can do that!"

SPECIAL

Brad Cohen, a Braves mascot from 2001-04, is the subject of a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie about his life of dealing with Tourette Syndrome, and he's also become an author and motivational speaker.

What began as a part-time summer job developed into more time at Turner Field than Cohen ever imagined.

"When school started, I didn't want to stop. Then all of the sudden, they were in the playoffs, and I didn't want to miss that," said Cohen, who has since moved into an administrative position in the Cobb County school system. "So, I kept doing it, and then the next season started in April, and I didn't want to wait until the summer. I'd work a couple of days a week at games and when the mascot made appearances at schools, malls, etc. The more I did it, the more I enjoyed it."

Of course, being a mascot with Tourette presented challenges.

"Mascots aren't supposed to talk or make noises, so how could a guy with Tourette make it work? It just shows that just because someone has a disability or weakness, they can still do anything," he said. "If I'm focused on something, I don't make noises as much. But one time everybody had to be really quiet was during the national anthem. I'd hold it as long as I could, and then I'd let out a few noises. The way I'd play it was if someone looked at me, I'd point at the person next to me or behind me!

"What was really difficult was when the Braves played Montreal or Toronto, and there would be two national anthems! I finally decided I'd take off those games against the Canadian teams."

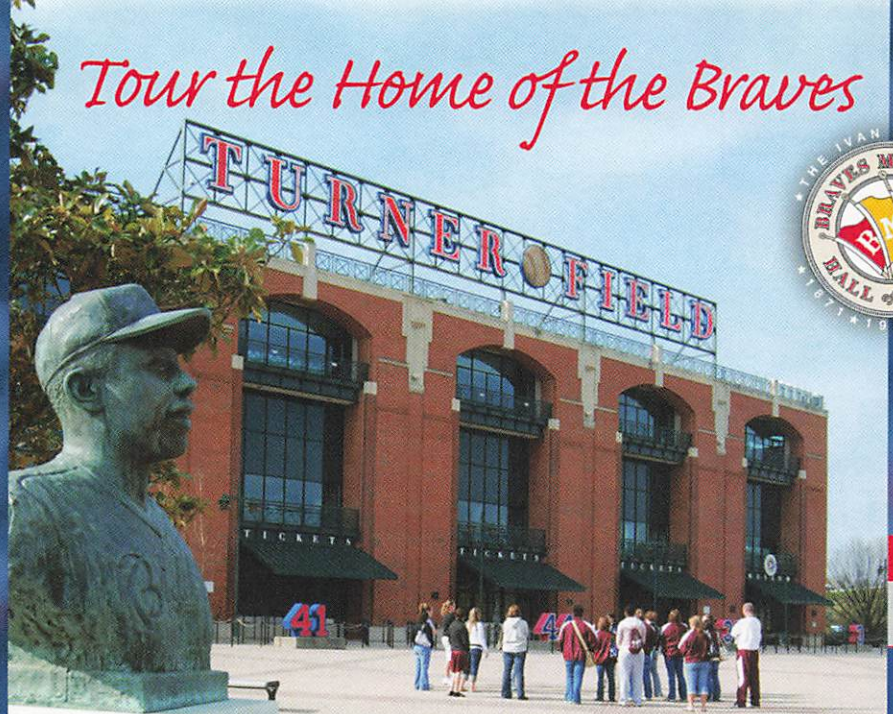
Cohen and his wife, Nancy, who live in the Atlanta suburb of Roswell, are expecting their first child late this month.

"I'm thinking if it's a little late, we'll be able to have birthday parties at Turner Field. That place is like home to me," he said.

Cohen, who has been the subject of countless newspaper and magazine articles and has even appeared on "Oprah" and many other television and radio programs, recently received 501(c)(3) non-profit status for his Brad Cohen Tourette Foundation. The foundation's goal is to help children all over the country who have Tourette through programs such as Cohen's Camp Twitch and Shout and similar facilities and programs. Camp Twitch and Shout is a one-week overnight program outside Atlanta for children 7-17 with Tourette.

Visit bradcohentourettefoundation.com and classperformance.com for more information.

Tour the Home of the Braves



TAKE A ONE-HOUR GUIDED TOUR OF TURNER FIELD to many areas off limits during games, such as the press box, clubhouse, dugout and the SunTrust Club. Group and school tours are offered year-round, including specialized tours on the subjects of math and careers in sports. **Call 404-614-2311.**

VISIT THE BRAVES MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME AT TURNER FIELD and view more than 600 Braves artifacts and photographs on display. See items from the team's years in Boston (1871-1952), Milwaukee (1953-65), and Atlanta (1966-present), including Hank Aaron's 715th home run bat and ball, the 1995 World Series trophy and much more.

BOBBY COX $6 DAYS

In honor of Bobby Cox's last season as Braves manager, tours of Turner Field will be $6 on the following days in 2010.

2010	
April 10	Bobby earned his first managerial win in 1978
May 21	Bobby's birthday
June 16	Bobby became the winningest manager in Braves history with 1,005 wins in 1998
July 11	Bobby managed the 2000 All-Star Game at Turner Field
August 28	Bobby earned his 1,500th career win in 1999
September 29	Bobby earned his 2,000th career win in 2004

Call 404-614-2311 for more information on these promotions.

T-Shirts | Caps | Jerseys | Jackets | Ladies Apparel | Youth Apparel | Novelties | Collectibles | Game-Used Merchandise | 404-523-5854

MARKDOWN MONDAYS

Save 10% on your entire purchase at the Braves Clubhouse Store at CNN Center on any Monday from March 15, 2010 through October 25, 2010.

$500 SHOPPING SPREES*

ONLY AT THE BRAVES CLUBHOUSE STORE/CNN CENTER

Starting in May 2010, visit the Braves Clubhouse Store at CNN Center and enter for a chance to win a $500 Shopping Spree of regularly-priced merchandise. One (1) winner will be selected each month during May, June, July, and August 2010.

* No purchase necessary. Open to legal U.S. residents 18 or older at the time of entry. Void where prohibited. Subject to official rules. Please visit the Braves Clubhouse Store at CNN Center for complete contest rules.

Braves CLUBHOUSE STORE

WE'VE OUTFITTED THE BRAVES. WE CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU.

Call or visit for Braves merchandise and more exciting merchandise promotions | 404-523-5854 | CNN Center 10 am to 6 pm daily

Authentic On Field Jerseys from Majestic

100% polyester. Sewn on tackle twill logo. Adult sizes: 40, 44, 48, 52. Home #175, Road #188 **$170**

THE MAGIC OF

TURNER FIELD

2010 FLEX PLAN

PICK ANY 10 GAMES FOR AS LOW AS $110

- Save up to $6 off every ticket
- Exchange tickets up to 24 hours before games
- Secure priority seating for all the hardest hitting dates including Opening Day vs. the Chicago Cubs, exciting interleague matchups, and games against National League East rivals the Mets and Phillies.
- Two-for-One Wednesdays in the Outfield Pavilion
- Interest-Free Financing available through G.E. Money
- $10 Discounted Parking in the lot of your choice
- Enjoy Friday Night Fireworks
- Choose different seats and vantage points throughout Turner Field
- No Blackout Dates
- Support Bobby Cox in his last season managing the Braves

2010 BRAVES SCHEDULE

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2 CWS EXH 7:00	3 CWS EXH 1:00
4	5 CHI 4:00	6	7 CHI 7:00	8 CHI 7:00	9 SF 4:30	10 SF TBD
11 SF 4:00	12 SD 6:30	13	14 SD 10:00	15 SD 6:30	16 COL 7:30	17 COL 7:00
18 COL 1:30	19	20 PHI 7:00	21 PHI 7:00	22 PHI 7:00	23 NYM 7:00	24 NYM 1:00
25 NYM 8:00	26 STL 8:00	27 STL 8:00	28 STL 8:00	29 STL 1:30	30 HOU 7:30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 HOU 3:00
2 HOU 1:30	3	4 WAS 7:00	5 WAS 7:00	6 WAS 7:00	7 PHI 7:00	8 PHI 3:00
9 PHI 1:30	10 MIL 8:00	11 MIL 8:00	12 MIL 1:00	13	14 ARI 7:30	15 ARI 7:00
16 ARI 1:30	17 NYM 7:00	18 NYM 7:00	19 CIN 7:00	20 CIN 1:00	21 PIT 7:00	22 PIT 7:00
23 PIT 1:30	24	25 FLA 7:00	26 FLA 7:00	27 FLA 7:00	28 PIT 7:30	29 PIT 7:00
30 PIT 1:30	31 PHI 1:00					

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 PHI 7:00	2 PHI 1:00	3 LAD 10:00	4 LAD 10:00	5 LAD 10:00
6 LAD TBD	7 ARI 9:30	8 ARI 9:30	9 ARI 9:30	10 ARI 3:30	11 MIN 8:00	12 MIN 7:00
13 MIN 2:00	14	15 TB 7:00	16 TB 7:00	17 TB 7:00	18 KC 7:30	19 KC 7:00
20 KC 1:30	21	22 CWS 8:00	23 CWS 8:00	24 CWS 2:00	25 DET 7:30	26 DET 7:00
27 DET 1:30	28 WAS 7:00	29 WAS 7:00	30 WAS 7:00			

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2 FLA 7:30	3 FLA 4:00
4 FLA 1:30	5 PHI 7:00	6 PHI 7:00	7 PHI 7:00	8	9 NYM 7:00	10 NYM 4:00
11 NYM 1:00	12 13 14 ALL-STAR GAME ANAHEIM			15 MIL 7:00	16 MIL 7:30	17 MIL 7:00
18 MIL 1:30	19	20 SD 7:00	21 SD 7:00	22 SD 1:00	23 FLA 7:00	24 FLA 7:00
25 FLA 1:00	26	27 WAS 7:00	28 WAS 7:00	29 WAS 12:30	30 CIN 7:00	31 CIN 7:00

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 CIN 1:00	2 NYM 7:00	3 NYM 7:00	4 NYM 7:00	5 SF 7:00	6 SF 7:30	7 SF 4:00
8 SF 1:30	9 HOU 8:00	10 HOU 8:00	11 HOU 2:00	12	13 LAD 7:30	14 LAD 7:00
15 LAD 1:30	16 LAD 7:00	17 WAS 7:00	18 WAS 7:00	19 WAS 1:00	20 CHI 2:00	21 CHI 4:00
22 CHI 2:00	23 COL 8:30	24 COL 8:30	25 COL 3:00	26	27 FLA 7:30	28 FLA 4:00
29 FLA 1:30	30 NYM 7:00	31 NYM 7:00				

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 NYM 7:00	2 NYM 7:00	3 FLA 7:00	4 FLA 7:00
5 FLA 1:00	6 PIT 1:30	7 PIT 7:00	8 PIT 7:00	9 STL 7:00	10 STL 7:30	11 STL 4:00
12 STL 1:30	13 WAS 7:00	14 WAS 7:00	15 WAS 12:00	16	17 NYM 7:00	18 NYM 4:00
19 NYM 1:00	20 PHI 7:00	21 PHI 7:00	22 PHI 7:00	23	24 WAS 7:00	25 WAS 1:00
26 WAS 1:30	27 FLA 7:00	28 FLA 7:00	29 FLA 7:00	30	1 PHI 7:30	2 PHI 7:00
3 PHI 1:30						

New Radio Partners for 2010

SPORTS RADIO 680 The Fan · ROCK 100.5 ATLANTA'S ROCK STATION

Where to watch the Braves

FS SOUTH · FOX · ESPN · SPORTSOUTH · Peachtree TV

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Home Game *EXH - Exhibition Game

SEAT PRICING

SEATING SECTION	GATE PRICE Non-Premium/Premium	FLEX PRICE
Golden Moon Casino	$44/$48	$42
Field Level	$38/$42	$37
Terrace Level	$36/$40	$35
Field/Terrace Pavilion	$24/$28	$22
Upper Box	$12/$16	$11
Parking	$12	$10

Premium Games are Opening Day, all Fridays and Saturdays

braves.com/tickets

404.577.9100

Braves

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